



TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY

BULLETIN

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TSU formally welcomes its 6th president in a formal ceremony

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Tarlac State University welcomed Dr. Arnold E. Velasco as its sixth university president in an investiture rite held on July 14, 2022 at the Bulwagang Kanlahi in Tarlac City.

Dr. Velasco is the first engineer to serve his alma mater as university president. Before this, he served in various capacities at Tarlac Agricultural University for 28 years. His most recent position at TAU is Vice President for Academic

Affairs from 2021-2022.

According to him, he never imagined that he would one day become the TSU president. But ever since he started teaching at Tarlac College of Agriculture (now TAU), he started dreaming of becoming president for either of his two dearest institutions, TAU and TSU, his alma mater (formerly Tarlac College of Technology).

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Two TSU graduates are topnotchers in July 2022 Master Plumber boards

■ Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan

Tarlac State University graduates Engr. Erwin M. Mabuti and Engr. Maria Vida D. Ora'a placed sixth and tenth in the July 2022 Master Plumber Licensure Examination (MPLE) per the results released by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) last July 25, 2022.

Engr. Mabuti scored 85.20, tying with two other passers from Bulacan State University and University of San Carlos, while Engr. Ora'a scored 84.30, along with a passer from the University of Mindanao.

The topnotchers are graduates of Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering batch 2018. Currently, they are working for the Provincial Government of Tarlac under the Provincial Engineer's Office.

In an interview, both said they never expected to place in the top 10 since they had never enrolled in a review center. According to them, their biggest struggle was the lack of time for review, as they were both busy with their

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CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL PASSERS!

JULY 2022 MASTER PLUMBER LICENSURE EXAMINATION

INSTITUTIONAL PASSING RATE: 58.82% NATIONAL PASSING RATE: 51.28%

FIRST TIME TAKERS: 63.83%

ENGR. ERWIN M. MABUTI | TOP 6 (85.20%)
ENGR. MARIA VIDA D. ORA'A | TOP 10 (84.30%)

TSU, CHR sign MOA for human rights advocacy

■ Maria Adelaida D. Calayag

Aimed to build a culture of human rights in the academe, Tarlac State University and the Commission on Human Rights-Regional Office III (CHR) entered a memorandum of agreement on July 5, 2022 at the TSU Hotel in Lucinda Campus.

TSU will strengthen and establish human rights education as its advocacy through the said partnership.

Furthermore, the Centre for Human Rights Education (CHRE) aims to be developed as a national social laboratory for human rights education.

“Tarlac State University affirms its commitment to the CHR’s memorandum of agreement. The national roadmap for Public Higher Education will speed up as a result, leading to the creation of new knowledge and skills,” TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco said in his message during the program.

“It is commended that this opportunity will give both parties a chance to boost the promotion of human rights in areas where tools might hasten the emergence of a culture of human rights not just at TSU but also among other academic communities,” he added.

With the signed agreement, the university is expected to hold human rights education activities for students, faculty, and staff, as well as develop information, education, and



communication materials on access to justice.

Likewise, CHR shall establish capacity-building activities for the university’s staff, volunteers, faculty members, and student organizations.

As the agreement strengthens the primacy of human rights and the provision of legal measures for human rights protection, the TSU School of Law (SOL), through its dean Atty. Jose I. Dela Rama Jr., fully supports

upholding human rights education in the university.

“The SOL and CHR have been working on how we could help one another in their mission. The MOA was halted due to the pandemic. As early as 2016, when I was first appointed as dean, the first thing that [we] did was the creation of an office which is called Center for Human Rights and Legal Aid. It has been my advocacy to promote justice and full respect for human rights in a balanced way. Our students must know what is happening in the community so we can readily help those who seek justice,” Dean Dela Rama said in an interview.

According to him, the agreement will allow faculty members and students to strive and learn more outside the four corners of their classrooms.

“It is better to learn and serve justice if our students can personally experience the plight of our poor litigants; serve justice if our students can,” he said.

“We have an international declaration of human rights, and in fact, we have law subjects about human rights. It teaches us to be more vigilant in protecting our bill of rights, which is guaranteed by the constitution,” Dean Dela Rama added.



TSU joins SUC Fair 2022

■ Engr. Dick S. Tuazon [FTRC]

The Food Technology and Research Center (FTRC) of Tarlac State University showcased its muscovado- and calamansi-based food products during the SUC Fair 2022 held at SM Mall of Asia (MOA) Music Hall from June 28 to July 1, 2022.

The SUC Fair 2022 highlights various research and innovation products of participating state universities and colleges (SUCs) anchored on the theme “Promoting Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Culture, and Arts for National Development and Global Competitiveness” with the tagline “#WeAreSUC: Sustained Excellence, Unified Efforts, Competitive Standards.”



Furthermore, the said fair is aimed to promote entrepreneurship, culture, and arts for national development and global competitiveness. It was organized in line with the Commission on Higher Education’s celebration of its founding anniversary, where CHED partnered with the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges-National Capital Region (PASUC-NCR) and

various state universities and colleges (SUCs) nationwide.

TSU was represented by FTRC Director Prof. Leah Matias, Production Services Unit Head Engr. Dick S. Tuazon, Technical Support Services Unit Head Ms. Geraldine R. Gamoso, Research and Development Unit Head Ms. Abigail Feliciano, and Mr. Jhan Ervin Marcel from Food Technology Department

CTED, COS conduct teacher’s training on Science and Mathematics teaching

■ Derich D. Bognot [ESMO]

Around 60 junior high school and senior high school teachers from public schools in Mayantoc, San Jose, and San Clemente towns of Tarlac Province attended the two-day teachers’ training conducted by the College of Teacher Education (CTED) and College of Science (COS).

This capacity-building activity focused on strategies and tools for teaching Science and Mathematics subjects to engage students and promote active involvement in class. Moreover, the training emphasized the need to make learning collaborative, fun, and interactive.

In addition, the teachers’ capability will be improved by increasing their knowledge of content and upgrading their competencies

in teaching and assessing learning.

The training was held at Dueg High School in San Clemente last May 16 and 23 and at Moriones High School in San Jose and Carabaon-Caocaoayan High School in Mayantoc last June 6 and 7.

Other participating schools include Villa Aglipay High School (San Jose), Mababanaba High School (San Jose), Labney Integrated School (Mayantoc), and San Bartolome High School (Mayantoc).

Since most students from said schools belong to the Indigenous Peoples communities, the training received by the teachers will help them guide their students to pass the DOST Scholarship Examination after graduating from senior high school.

CTED and COS faculty experts shared different teaching approaches covering a wide range of topics in Science and Mathematics subjects.

The Science group, composed of Dr. Ronnie Angelo Dungo, Dr. Cynthia G. Quiambao, Mr. Jayson Y. Punzalan, and Ms. Sharmaine Guiang, discussed the topics such as physics, ecosystem concepts, and earth and space science, among others.

Meanwhile, Dr. Nancy L. Mati, Mr. Chris Mark V. Catalan, Engr. Ezra Gil S. Lagman, and Ms. Mariliz L. Sison of the Math group covered the topics of number sense, basic geometry, patterns and algebra, measurements, and statistics.



Photos from ESMO

Retired TSU professor, now NHCP commissioner leads Tarlac Cathedral historical marker unveiling

■ Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



Dr. Lino L. Dizon, NHCP commissioner and former professor of Tarlac State University, led the unveiling of the “Katedral ng Tarlac” (Tarlac Cathedral) historical marker together with the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), Diocese of Tarlac, and the City Government of Tarlac on July 14, 2022.

The event coincides with the 123rd commemoration of the Congress of the First Philippine Republic. President Emilio Aguinaldo reconvened the Revolutionary Congress in Tarlac on July 14, 1989.



“Itong istrukturang ito ang makikita ng magiging na rebolusyunaryong Pilipino noong muling buksan ang Revolutionary Congress noong ika 14 ng Hulyo 1899. Dito natamasa ng Pangulong Aguinaldo, sabi ng isang historyador, ‘ang papel ng tunay na Republika, sapagkat nakapagpasa sila ng maraming batas, gaya ng pagkapili kay Apolinario Mabini bilang punong-hukom ng Korte Suprema,” Commissioner Dizon said in his speech.

Commissioner Dizon also said the historical marker is dedicated to the late Rev. Fr. Raymund “Lucky” Acuna, who once dreamt of having a marker that would signify the San Sebastian Cathedral’s distinguished role in Philippine and Tarlac

history. Tarlac was the fourth and last capital of the Aguinaldo Republic in June 1899.

NHCP OIC Executive Director III Carminda R. Arevalo unveiled the marker with Tarlac Bishop Enrique Macaraeg, Tarlac City Mayor Cristy Angeles, Commissioner Dizon, Commissioner Lisa Guerrero Nakpil, and some priests in the Diocese.



Aguinaldo’s Legacy in the Philippine Educational System

The Universidad Literaria de Filipinas, the first state university in Asia, was founded by the Philippine Revolutionary Government on October 18, 1898 in Malolos, Bulacan. It was then transferred to Tarlac Province with the whole Aguinaldo government back when Malolos fell to the Americans prompting the schools to close.

The university’s first and only graduation rites was held in San Sebastian Roman Catholic Cathedral Convent, presently the San Sebastian Cathedral, last September 29, 1899. It was then under Dr. Leon Ma. Guerrero as its rector (Guerrero’s granddaughter, Commissioner Lisa Guerrero Nakpil, was also present at the event). The graduates’ diplomas were personally signed by Aguinaldo, the university president back then.

Classes for the Universidad were

held at the Tarlac Cathedral’s convent beside the San Sebastian Cathedral (Tarlac Cathedral). Along with the Burgos Institute, a secondary school, the university was re-established in Tarlac.

With Aguinaldo’s legacy in the Philippine Educational System, TSU conferred Aguinaldo with a posthumous Doctor of Public Administration (honoris causa) on September 29, 2004. He was also the first honorary president of TSU.

Casa Real de Tarlac

Casa Real de Tarlac, the building where Aguinaldo stayed during his term in the province, is now the site of TSU’s Museo-Archivo Tarlaqueño. It is located at the Engineering grounds of the university.

In Tarlac, the Aguinaldo government attained its fullest function as a republic. Certain decrees were issued there that had the effects of laws in a regular state.

Among the significant decrees signed at the Casa Real de Tarlac were the Fil-Hispano Decree of 30 June 1899 (the basis of the Philippine-Spanish Friendship Decree); the prohibition of the merchant vessels flying the American flag from territories held by the Philippine Republic; the organization of the Supreme Court and inferior courts; and the promulgation of the General Orders of the Army.



TSU bags medals in ASCU-SN Summer Olympics 2022

■ Jazzel Llanelli M. Manabat (with reports from Franc Lewis R. Juanatas [OPA], Marvin Ray Rilles [SDMU])

Tarlac State University delegates brought home several championship titles in the recently concluded Association of State Colleges and Universities-Solid North (ASCU-SN) Summer Olympics 2022 hosted by Benguet State University last July 19-23, 2022.

Sports Development and Management Unit Head Dr. Ligaya S. Salangsang led the TSU delegates in reaping awards as she secured the gold medal in badminton women under the 46 and above age category.

In athletics, Mr. Sherwin De Vera of the College of Teacher Education and maintenance personnel Mr. Francisco Gelbolingo brought home gold medals for the 6-kilometer and 5-kilometer run, respectively. Meanwhile, Mr. Nelson Corpuz, also a faculty member from the College of Teacher Education, bagged the silver medal in the same 5-kilometer run.

Chess delegates of the university likewise sealed championship titles in the team and individual events. Engr. Jessie Domingo and Mr. Glen Arman



Pineda won gold medals in the singles category. They are also part of the winning chess team, together with Mr. Allan Ocampo and Mr. Alfred Ibañez.

Meanwhile, both men's and women's volleyball teams of TSU ensured a spot in the top three. The teams entered the championship match and emerged as the first runners-ups.

The university sent around 120 faculty members and employees as participants in the different sporting events and fun games or laro ng lahi.

The university also joined other competitions such as basketball, darts, lawn tennis, and e-sports.

Aside from TSU, around 23 state universities and colleges also participated in the said event.

EDITORIAL

'History is like tsismis' – really?

A controversial statement from a local actress sprung out on social media and spread like wildfire this month. According to the actress, through a report from the Philippine STAR, "History is like tsismis. It is filtered and dagdag na rin, so, hindi natin alam what is the real history. Andoon na iyong idea, pero may mga bias talaga. As long as we're here alive at may kanyakanyang opinion, I respect everyone's opinion." This is about her newfound knowledge regarding the untold history of the Marcos family.

Banking on her bold statement, "History is like tsismis," – this is somehow a disrespect to all historians, regardless of their political affiliations. History is a product of extensive research; it is a branch of social sciences that studies past events to shed light on the present. Treating history as tsismis or rumors dismisses the hardships and efforts of these experts.

Though a historical event may start as a rumor, the role of historians is to dig deeper into these stories, extract facts, and segregate these from the fictitious details

to arrive at a concrete and fairly accurate narrative. They prove and disprove further information from eyewitness accounts, do rigorous studies to support their claims, and publish the woven strands of information to make it available to the public. From there, history is drafted and popularized.

But why is there a need to popularize history?

History is studied so people can appreciate the present. Just like the recent unveiling of the historical marker at the San Sebastian Cathedral in Tarlac last July 14, 2022, Tarlaqueños would better appreciate the province knowing the structure's important role in Philippine history. Who would have thought that the said place of worship that is known today is the exact location where President Emilio Aguinaldo reconvened the Revolutionary Congress on July 14, 1899. This kind of information could only be unearthed and proven through the help of historians.

Filters and biases could probably exist whenever historians write their narratives, especially if sources are limited.

However, remember that their names and reputations are always on the line whenever they publish their writings. They also have to be extra mindful of what they feed the public. Furthermore, they are historians because of their passion and profession, and it is not merely an act of convenience. Who else would be the starting point of knowing the past if not for the historians who have mastered their craft for more than four years of studies?

Equating history with tsismis through a simile does not give justice to the hard work and dedication of the historians who did nothing but educate us about the important happenings of the past. These words, which they carefully craft into a narrative, help build Filipinos' identity and ignite their sense of nationalism and patriotism. These historians also give a backstory to Filipinos' sacrifices and noble deeds that paved the way to the country being enjoyed now. History will never be like tsismis. History will always have a pivotal role in every nook and cranny of the world – it builds a nation.

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respective jobs.

“Nagreview ako kapag may free time like, [pag]kauwi ko galing work hanggang bago matulog. Everytime na may vacant time ako sa office, sinisingit ko yung pagbabasa. ‘Di ako agad nakapagstart mag-review kaya nagahol sa oras. Marami pang review materials ang hindi ko nabasa,” Engr. Mabuti said in an interview.

“My review time is mostly evening. And when I got spare time during my work, I also try to read po kahit kaunti lang. I’m also the kind of person na hindi kayang mag-review kapag maingay, so nighttime is the best time for me to review. Most of the time, hanggang 10pm-11pm po kasi [I] need to rest dahil may pasok na naman the next day,” Engr. Oraña said.

Aside from the lack of time, Engr. Oraña also struggled with reviewing since she did not know where and what to start. She disregarded her original review schedule a week before the exams and made a different plan.

“Alam ko na po that time na it’s impossible na for me na basahin lahat po ng gusto kong basahin. So, I decided po to follow my instinct na lang po – kung ano sa tingin ko pong mga bagay na kaya ko pang basahin na makakatulong pa po sa akin,” she added.

Despite the struggles, the engineers were thankful for the support of their family and friends. They sought advice from those who had already taken the MPLE and borrowed books and review materials.

Both engineers said the week-long wait for the results was filled with jitters and fretting.

“Each day na lumilipas po, padagdag ng padagdag po ‘yung kaba ko. Pinag-pray ko nga din po na kapag inilabas po ang result sana po is ‘yung kapag nasa kwarto ko na ako, hindi po ‘yung nasa office pa ako. Para po kung ano man po ang result, mailabas ko yung emotion ko po right away,” Engr. Oraña said.

She eventually knew the exam results from her brother, who went to her room to share the news.

“He said, ‘yes.’ Pumasa daw po ako, so the feeling is just unexplainable. Sobrang saya that I’m even jumping. Sinabi namin agad sa parents namin na pumasa nga po ako, and their reaction [was] priceless,” she said.

She shared that it took a while before she knew she placed top 10. She looked at the topnotcher results and jokingly told her family that she may be included. She said that when she opened the results, she first saw those in the top 10, including her name.

“Actually, feeling ko po medyo nag-blur ‘yung paningin ko. In my mind, parang feeling ko imagination ko lang po sya kaya po ang nasabi ko po is ‘parang nasa top ako.’ So, binalikan ko po siya agad, and nakita ko nga na nasa list po ako ng topnotchers. [My] happiness was doubled,” she added.



Photo from Engr. Oraña



Photo from Engr. Mabuti's Facebook

She said she was also thrilled to see his review companion, Mr. Mabuti, who landed 6th.

“Yes, I doubt[ed] myself many times, but God is just so amazing. I won’t lie that I prayed for it, but I never expected it to happen. God shows me that when you want something, work hard for it and he will guide and bless us. Just surrender all to him,” Engr. Oraña told OPA.

Meanwhile, Engr. Mabuti said that he first saw the list of successful passers. He admitted that Engr. Oraña was the one who shared the topnotcher news through a screenshot sent to him.

“Nagulat ako ‘nung nakita ko ‘yung pangalan ko sa list, dahil hindi ko talaga in-expect na mapapasama ako sa top 10 [even though] that’s one of my goals before I [started] reviewing for the exam. Pero dahil nagahol na sa time, pinagpray ko na lang na pumasa sa exam. Kaya super thankful ako na sobra pa sa hiniling ko ang binigay ng Diyos sa akin,” he said.

Engr. Mabuti and Engr. Oraña are among the thirty newly licensed master plumbers from the university, resulting in a 58.82 institutional passing percentage against the 51.28% national passing rate.

The passing rate for the university’s first-time takers is 63.83%

Life in TSU and other plans

Though both topnotchers described their university life as ordinary, they both said with conviction that BS Civil Engineering is their top choice.

“Funny to think that when I [took] my entrance exam po Business and Accountancy po ‘yung nilagay ko and second is engineering, dahil ‘yun po gusto ng mama ko,” Engr. Oraña laughingly said.

However, after passing, she convinced

her mother that she really wanted to become an engineer. She went through the hoops of several processes to transfer to the engineering program.

Meanwhile, Engr. Mabuti said that he had good relations with his professors. He and his classmates then would always study in groups, which he said helped a lot in passing his subjects.

“My fondest memory during my life in TSU is when I was a quizzier for [TSU] PICE [Philippine Institute for Civil Engineering] and PCSMT [Philippine Consortium for Science, Math, and Technology, Inc.] together with Engr. Webster Alborote, who is also my classmate and co-quizzier during elementary,” he said.

Both expressed their heartfelt gratitude to their former professors, particularly to Engr. Ferdinand E. Angeles, from whom they learned a lot.

“I have many takeaways from my building design subject under Engr. Angeles na nakatulong ng malaki sa aking exam prep and also in my career/job,” Engr. Mabuti said.

“The knowledge I acquired from college was my weapon during the exams. Yes, wala kaming ‘Plumbing’ na subject, but somehow Sir Ferdinand Angeles still managed to teach the basic of it to us. Kaya ‘nung nagbabasa po ako during my review, it was easier to me na po dahil kahit papaano may naituro na po sa amin,” Engr. Oraña seconded.

Engr. Oraña said she still wants to expand her knowledge and learn new things that may help her in the present and the future.

“Mag-iipon muna po [ako] at kukuha ng mga experience. And I’m praying that [through] God’s will na sana in the future, I can do what my childhood dream was – that is to start my own firm,” she ended.

TSU, PCCI Tarlac seal partnership for MSMEs

■ Maria Adelaida D. Calayag

Tarlac State University continues its mission to support micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) by sealing a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry-Tarlac (PCCI Tarlac) on July 26, 2022, held at the Main AVR.

This partnership, initiated by the College of Business and Accountancy (CBA), will further provide technical support for enhancing the production capability of MSMEs. These include trademark and patenting services, trainings, and seminars, among others.

Through the services provided by the University Research Office (URO), Extension Services Management Office (ESMO), and Technology Development, Transfer, and Commercialization Office (TDTCO), the university is aimed to share knowledge or technology with MSMEs suited for the commercialization of their products.

The university has several potential leaders who are experts in this field and are willing to share their time and services with the partner MSMEs.

PCCI Tarlac envisions helping around 200 MSMEs in the future with the help of TSU.

“Since TSU is known as one of the most reputable [universities] in the country,



we are honored in this collaboration. This program will benefit the Tarlaqueños, not only the businesspersons but also the other *cabalens*, because more jobs will be created as businesses expand. On behalf of the PCCI Tarlac, we would like to express our profound gratitude for this,” said PCCI Tarlac president Mr. Leonardo Cudo.

With this agreement, TSU is expected to link MSMEs to other

government agencies and private entities that could give them further assistance.

The university will also do the service monitoring of the project and schedule of visits. TSU shall also maintain the confidentiality of all information and documents provided.

In return, PCCI Tarlac shall express every request through a letter for every assistance needed.

“TSU affirms its commitment and purpose to PCCI to provide numerous research and extension programs that offer technical assistance to improve the production capacity of MSMEs. These programs include a provision of research services, trademark and patenting services, trainings, seminars, and technical assistance consultancy services in the conduct of coaching and mentoring activities,” TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco said in his speech.

TSU has helped MSMEs like Daytao’s Native Cakes with its food safety manual documentation, food safety compliant layout assistance, and product and process improvement.

Another is RP Corpus Food & Beverages, which the university also assisted with its food safety manual documentation, FDA – LTO application, food safety compliant layout, and product and process improvement.

Moreover, the university also prioritizes non-food businesses. Bale Mi Farms in Barangay Balanti, Tarlac City was assisted with its trademark registration application.



CAFA students, faculty, alumni join CAMP Identity Art Exhibit

■ Maria Adelaida D. Calayag

Alumni, faculty, and students from the College of Architecture and Fine Arts (CAFA) displayed their artworks in the first Identity Art Exhibit of the Contemporary Art Movement of the Philippines (CAMP) at the Bulwagang Kanlahi ng Tarlac from July 18 to August 12, 2022.

The Contemporary Art Movement of the Philippines (CAMP) is a newly established group composed of practicing artisans, hobbyists, and professional and student artists in Tarlac. This group aims to instill a solid foundation among artists while promoting and supporting each other's artworks in their respective diverse fields.

Currently, CAMP comprises around 31 artists in the province of Tarlac.

Among the artists is Mr. Jessie Tadeo Jr., CAFA alumnus and faculty member. He exhibited the artwork he titled "Kariktan" and "Haze over Memories" where he used acrylic paint.

Tadeo said his artwork "Kariktan" talks about how someone shows his affection to his lover, like how he would see an angel when he decides to open his eyes.



"Kariktan ng kalooban niya'y sing puti ng ulap at tubig. Pustura niya ay hindi maantig, sapagkat siya ay namumukadkad sa aking paningin. Walang kupas kung siya'y manamit. Pagtingin ko ay lalong lumalalim na parang bangin. Naging makulay ang buhay simula ikaw ay ipinagkaloob ng Maykapal. Ang aking saloobin sa iyo ay totoo at walang bahid ng kasinungalingan. Wala ng hihilingin pa, kundi makapiling ka habang buhay," Tadeo said in reference to his artwork.

With Tadeo's deep love for visual arts, he joined and represented his elementary school in art competitions. He eventually started his painting stint when he was in the secondary level. Even after he graduated from college, he continued to pursue his passion for visual arts.

Back when he was in college, Tadeo joined and won some national painting competitions that honed him in his craft. Now, as a CAFA instructor teaching Digital Designs and Animation and Visual Techniques, he still joins prestigious art competitions. One is the



Metrobank Art Excellence and Design, where he landed as a semi-finalist in the watercolor medium category in 2021. He was also a semi-finalist in 2022.

One of the remarkable paintings displayed in the exhibit is Kenneth Leo Pamlas' "Murdered in Cold Blood" which he dedicates to the journalists' call to end impunity. This painting voices out his disagreement with the red-tagging of journalists and activists.



23-year-old Pamlas is a CAFA alumnus from batch 2019. He served as the senior cartoonist of *The Work*, the official student publication of the university, from 2015-2017. He later became the publication's graphics editor.

"Para sa mga journalists at activists na hanggang ngayon hindi nila alam bakit namamatay sila, nafi-frame up sila; kadalasan kung sino 'yung mga namamatay ay 'yung mga activists na nare-redtag dahil nagsisiwalat ng katotohanan. Kasama rin kapag pinapatay nila 'yung mga journalists na sa tingin nila ay lumalaban sa gobyerno. Kasi 'yun na 'yung naaalala ko before. Ang tanong kasi hanggang ngayon ay hindi na nareresolba, maraming namamatay matapos ma-red-tag. Gusto ko lang ilabas kasi dati akong

gano'n eh," Pamlas said in an interview.

Pamlas won several art competitions when he was still a student, especially in cartooning and graphics contests of the Regional Higher Education Press Conference (RHEPC). He was also one of the finalists during the 49th Shell National Student Art Competition.

In 2018, he won first place in the first Ikeda Symposium Painting Competition in Caloocan City and was a finalist in the first Artablado CREATE Painting Competition.

Pamlas uses coffee, acrylic paint, and hardener for his painting. According to him, he can finish his work in one day.

Meanwhile, a fourth year CAFA student who frequents art exhibits displayed his paintings drawn from his firsthand experiences and self-interpretation.



Eduardo Laxamana highlighted a representation of his emotions through self-interpreted paintings. He titled his works "Manifestation" and "Focus" featuring himself painted on a canvas with the head or face covered with boxes of neutral and warm colors.

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“[Iyong mga paintings ko] Nagma-manifest ng anxiety ko, ng depression. Makikita mo kasi doon, may figure do’n na nakahubad at nakatalikod, which is ako din ‘yon. Bale ‘yung mga boxes sa taas nagre-represent ng aking emotions. Kaya siya nakatalikod at walang mukha kasi ‘yung emotion ko blangko lang, parang ‘yung mga kulay nung boxes na ‘yon nagre-represent ng emotions, anxieties. Parang sa makikita mo sa mukha ko ganito pala ‘yung nararamdaman ko na hindi alam ng mga tao,” Laxamana said in an interview.

He considers himself a beginner in painting despite being exposed to various exhibits in the province.

“Itinuturing ko talaga ‘yung sarili ko na beginner palagi. Kahit na mga bata o professional man yung mga kasama ko, parang newbie pa lang ‘yung tingin ko sa sarili ko. Parang gusto ko pa talagang makadiscovers ng iba o higit pa sa kung ano pang meron ako ngayon,” he added.

Laxamana also encourages his fellow student artists to join exhibits to learn from and be honed by professional



artists.

He now uses his income from painting and commissioned works to support his studies as he no longer asks

for money or allowance from his parents.

CAMP plans to hold other exhibits in Tarlac or Manila featuring more Tarlaqueño artists.

TSU's Ar. Marco Bildan is PRC's 2022 Outstanding Master Plumber

■ Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan

Ar. Marco F. Bildan, a faculty member of the College of Architecture and Fine Arts (CAFA), was named as 2022 Outstanding Professional of the year in the field of Master Plumbers by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) during the 2022 PRC Awards on July 29, 2022 at the Manila Hotel.

As one of the outstanding professionals of the year, Ar. Bildan was recognized for his exceptional achievements, service, and contributions in his field, as stated in his certificate.

Some of these include his professional consultancy to revisit the Plumbing Code of the Philippines in 2015 and his appointment as a member of the Professional Regulatory Board of Master Plumbing from 2007-2009, among others.

He also shared his dynamic experience in several activities, such as authorship of the proposed initial plumbing engineering curriculum in the 2003 PSPE (Philippines Society of Plumbing Engineers, Inc.) National Convention, chairmanship to PSPE Luzon conventions in 2013 and 2018, and NAMPAP (National Masters Plumbers Association of the Philippines, Inc.) Regional Assembly in 2000.

He was also a conferred fellow to

various organizations and reaped multiple awards, including being named as the 65th ASEAN Architect at the prestigious ASEAN Architects Meet last March 2018.

Moreover, he was awarded by TSU as Outstanding Alumnus in 2019. In the same year, TSU also recognized his exceptional service as CAFA's dean for 18 years.

In a comment he posted on Facebook, Ar. Bildan showed his gratitude to everyone who continued to support him.

“Thank you [for] PSPE's unwavering endorsement and encouragement, PSUMP's support, and NAMPAP experiences, now with the leadership of BOMP Chairman Hon. Reynald B. Ilagan, with board members Hon. Pedrito Camilet Jr. and Hon. Jaime Jajay Cruz. They [were] able to bring back the glory of the Master Plumber profession [on] the map of Philippine professionals. Mabuhay! God bless the Master Plumbers,” he wrote.

Accepting the award on his behalf were his sons Ar. Jeremiah Marco A. Bildan, also a faculty member of CAFA, and David Marco A. Bildan.

The “Outstanding Professional of the

Year Award” is the highest award given by the PRC to a professional as recommended by peers for having sufficiently demonstrated professional competence and integrity in the exercise of the profession, participation in professional activities through the professional organization, and effectively discharged personal and professional social responsibility through meaningful contributions in socio-related activities.

The med “PRC @ 49: Forging Ahead Towards Professionalism, Resiliency, and Competitiveness,” the 2022 PRC Awards was organized by the Professional Regulation Commission and Foundation for Outstanding Professionals, Inc.



TSU formally welcomes its 6th president in a formal ceremony

■ Maria Adelaida D. Calayag

From page 1

“The very moment I learned [about] the opening of [the] new TSU president [position] in October 2021, I prayed and asked [for] a sign from God. And that is if He will allow me to apply and submit my pertinent documents as TSU president, then it is His divine will that I will be the next president of TSU,” President Velasco said in his inaugural address.

“I submitted my application on the last day, just a few minutes before 5:00 PM of February 14, 2022, at the TSU Main Campus. And [at] that very moment, I already claimed and thanked God for His grace in making me the next president of TSU,” he added.

During the investiture proper, Commission on Higher Education Commissioner Dr. Ronald Adamat vested the appointment of Dr. Velasco as sixth TSU president. This was followed by the vesting of the president’s academic gown and hood, imposition of the presidential medallion, and presentation of the university mace with the help of the TSU Board of Regents and other government officials.

Dr. Velasco was ceremonially sworn into office by Commissioner Adamat, with the other regents and the new TSU president’s family as witnesses on stage.

His colleagues at TAU, led by President Max Guillermo, were also present at the event, as well as the TSU



community and Dr. Velasco’s extended family.

Presentation of recent accomplishments

Part of Dr. Velasco’s inaugural address is a presentation of his accomplishments since he assumed the presidency last April 1, 2022. He also shared his strategic programs and initiatives in 10 areas for his four-year term as president.

His primary vision for TSU is to be included among the world’s top 1,000

sustainable universities.

Dr. Velasco eyes to strengthen research within the institution at the national and international levels. He also wants to establish more research and development centers at the university, such as the Center for Indigenous Peoples’ Resource and Development and the Center for Affiliated Renewable Energy.

Furthermore, he also committed to continue the solar energy research project amounting to 7.5 million pesos through the support of 2nd district representative Hon. Christian Yap. This is in response to the 2022 Innovation Grants for the use of solar power generators and irrigation pumps that will benefit the local farmers of Tarlac to water their crops and save money by replacing the traditional diesel water pumps.

He also mentioned the completion of 12 solar-powered golf carts once the needed materials are delivered.

As a president who cares for the students’ and employees’ well-being, Dr. Velasco intends to hold regular consultations with stakeholders termed “Talakayan.” This gives the students and university personnel a chance to voice out their insights, concerns, and sentiments and seek solutions.

Dr. Velasco also intends to prioritize faculty and personnel development by increasing training allocations, creating additional plantilla, and strengthening scholarship policies, among others.



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The 6th TSU president after 38 years

"I entered the portals of Tarlac College of Technology in June 1984 as a first-year Electrical Engineering student. After 38 years, I am now TSU's 6th president. I would like that to happen and provide more opportunities to any aspiring student, even from ordinary backgrounds, whether he or she aspires to be president of the university," Dr. Velasco said in this speech, referring to his journey.

The sixth president graduated from TCT (now TSU) with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering degree in 1989. He pursued his studies and finished his Master of Arts in Teaching Mathematics at TCA (now TAU). In 2005, he completed the Doctor of Philosophy in Development Education also at TAU.

A hardworking man and the family's breadwinner, he juggled work and studies to support their family and send his five siblings to school.

He reminisced about his hardships in college when he accepted odd jobs to support his studies. He also recalled his packed lunch at school until he graduated -- rice wrapped in banana leaves with tomato and a pinch of salt.

He only had one pair of worn-out rubber shoes and an old backpack full of stitches that he used for work and school. He shared that he kept those to remind him about the hardships and sacrifices that brought him to where he is now.

Life was hard back then, he recalled. This young lad who once worked as a tricycle driver and construction worker is now the sixth TSU president.

Dr. Velasco – a man of dignity and potential

Dr. Lauren Velasco, Dr. Arnold's wife, thanked the TSU community for their trust and confidence in the new university president.

"Buong puso ko po siyang mahal na mahal, paki-aalagan niyo po siya. He is a man of dignity; he is very honest. Lagi po niyang sinasabi sa akin na makunteto daw po ako kung anong meron kami. So, ang meron po kami ay siya at ang aking tatlong mga anak. Hindi po hadlang ang



kahirapan para po maabot ang pangarap ng isang tao. Arnold is what you have since April 1. Please take good care of my husband," Dr. Lauren Velasco said during the inaugural ball after the investiture proper.

TAU's President Guillermo also shared a message for Dr. Arnold, his colleague and friend in TAU, whom he once mentored as a key official.

"Dr. [Arnold] Velasco really was one of the most potential official ng TAU kasi ang nag-serve siya on several offices. Ginawa ko siyang dean of the College of Education, I think Dr. Ibarra pa yata ang nagdesignate sa kanya. I designated him to the Registrar's Office and [also] as Director of Research and Development. Tapos kinuha ko siya pabaik sa Academic Affairs nang sa ganon ay ma-expose siya to the different functions of the university," Pres. Guillermo said.

He considers Dr. Arnold as one of his trophies and assets in TAU, saying he has mastered university operations after being designated to various positions.



TSU holds 1st mass oath-taking for contractual employees, temporary instructors

■ Maria Adelaida D. Calayag

One hundred twenty-one (121) employees of Tarlac State University took oath for their contractual and temporary employment status last July 19, 2022 at the TSU Gymnasium with university president Dr. Arnold E. Velasco as presiding officer.

This is the largest batch of employees subjected to a change of status, which is composed of 119 contractual items and two temporary Instructor 1 items.

“I believe the next time na mag-oath po kayo ay sana po permanent positions na po. Ipakita niyo po ang inyong trabaho [that] you do it from your heart. ‘Di man nakikita ng boss ‘yan, pero nakikita ng Diyos ‘yan and surely the next thing ay isa ka na sa mga susunod na mabibigyan ng permanent plantilla positions. Ipakita lang natin what’s best at hindi naman po kami bulag para hindi makita ang inyong ginagawa,” Pres. Velasco told the employees in a speech.

These employees who attended the oath-taking were mostly on a job order status for a long time. They are glad to be given this kind of opportunity in exchange for their service to the university.

Job order employees are hired for a piece of work or intermittent jobs of



short duration. They are paid on a daily or hourly basis.

Among the employees who were given contractual items are Mr. Rogelio Garcia from the Civil Security Unit (CSU), who was given a contractual position after 22 years of being a job order employee, and Mr. Alex Bulosan of the Facilities Development and Management Office (FDMO), a utility foreman for 23 years under a job order status.

Another employee from the FDMO, Mr. Enrique Guillermo, also a

utility foreman, was included in the roster of employees with a new contractual position. Like Bulosan, he has been serving TSU for 23 years as a job order employee.

Guillermo started working at TSU as a maintenance employee in 1999, two years after his stint as a construction worker. He was initially assigned at the Lucinda Campus for three years and later transferred to the Main Campus. Presently, his designated area is at the Management Information Systems Office and the VIP Lounge.

As a father of nine children, he worked hard to support their needs, especially when he lost his wife in 2007.

According to him, his hope rests on his daughter, who had just graduated from TSU this month.

Meanwhile, his son Raxon, 35, a utility personnel assigned at the Engineering grounds, also received a contractual item.

Guillermo advised his son Raxon to save his leave credits so they could use them to visit their relatives in Cagayan.

As he plans to retire from service by next year, Guillermo intends to continue his sideline as a barber. He shared that some TSU employees often seek his haircut services.



TSU, HCU sign MOA for research conference; conducts F2F seminar with CTED, CASS

■ Rolien Mark Balisi, Jhayvi Dizon [IALO]

Tarlac State University and Huachiew Chalermprakiet University (HCU) of Thailand explored joint ventures on research through a conference co-hosting and in-person seminar.

Both universities signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) on July 12, 2022 regarding the co-hosting of the 9th National and International Conference themed “Research to Serve Society.” This international research conference also coincides with HCU’s 30th founding anniversary.

Moreover, the two universities also signed a separate memorandum of understanding on the same day aimed to further open partnerships.

HCU’s Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Jonathan Carreon presented the co-hosting certificate with an ornate token to TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco.

During the program, Pres. Velasco and Dr. Carreon delivered their statements of commitment. They both emphasized the importance of research in the academe for professional development and in solving society’s pressing issues.

Dr. Carreon also awarded certificates of presentation to seven papers presented by faculty members of TSU.

TSU-IALO, HCU probe research opportunities on Corpus Linguistics

Tarlac State University’s



International Affairs and Linkages Office (IALO), in partnership with HCU, conducted a face-to-face seminar on research methods in corpus linguistics and research publication in refereed journals on July 19, 2022 at the TSU Hotel, Lucinda Campus.

This is the first installment of the

English Language Seminar Series 2022 with HCU’s Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Carreon.

Dr. Carreon shared his expertise on the said discussion points and trained the program participants on corpus-based discourse analysis.

His discussion also focused on the opportunities and challenges faced in research publication on refereed journals citing that researchers must be adept at identifying predatory publications to avoid untoward predicaments in the future.

The seminar’s participants include faculty members from the College of Teacher Education and the College of Arts and Social Sciences, along with representatives from the League of Prospective English Educators and the Linguistics Society.



TSU CTED’s outreach program benefits Aeta community in Sitio Baag

■ Derich D. Bognot, ESMO

Approximately 30 families from an Aeta community in Sitio Baag of Barangay Iba in San Jose, Tarlac benefitted from an outreach program organized by Tarlac State University’s College of Teacher Education, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Central Tarlac, Department of Agriculture, Department of Education Tarlac Province, and local government of San Jose.

This two-day community

outreach activity, under the Project AKAP (Asenso, Kaunlaran, Abot sa Pagtutulungan), was implemented on July 27 and 28, 2022. It aims to target the three Ls (Light, Learning, Living) in helping the community by producing solar lights, creating instructional materials, and planting crops for profit.

As a far-flung area in San Jose town with around 40 households, Sitio Baag’s primary concern is the absence



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of electricity supply and lacking water sources. The entire community only shares two pumps for its water supply.

The project provided nine solar light kits and one water pump to address the community's immediate needs. In addition, the DA donated 50 pieces of fruit-bearing seedlings and four trays of vegetable seedlings that were distributed to the heads of the household.

Aside from providing solar light kits, Mr. Edmar S. Aguilar of Don Bosco Technical Institute Tarlac taught the beneficiaries how to make solar lighting using recycled and inexpensive materials.

The benefactors also extended their service by creating and sharing instructional materials, giving basic school supplies and old clothing, and conducting a feeding activity for the school children.

The project implementers discussed the construction of localized instructional materials on the second day of the activity. Completed outputs and some school supplies were then given to the school and learners, which they can use for the full implementation of face-to-face classes in the community.

A feeding activity and closing program were held to confirm the program's attainment of targets and to conclude the



Photos from ESMO



outreach activity.

"Sana po ay magbukas sa inyo ito ng pintuan ng pag-asa at pagsisikap para sa ganoon ay talagang maasenso po tayo," CTEd Extension Chairperson and project head Dr. Maria Agnes P. Ladia said in her message.

(I hope this will open doors full of hope and perseverance so that we can all have the progress we deserve.)

She added that the group would continue to provide activities to strengthen their partnership with various stakeholders and improve the community's economic, health, and social well-being. This is in response to the university's mandate to become a champion in community service.

Dr. Ladia led the outreach activity with her students taking up Doctor of Education.

TSU alumni association officers plan for more university projects

■ Maria Adelaida D. Calayag

The Tarlac State University Alumni Association, Inc. (TSUAAI) expressed its plans to rehabilitate the Alumni Center located at the Lucinda Campus during the TSUAAI Planning 2022 last July 29-30 held in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

According to TSU Alumni Affairs Director Dr. Winston Abalos, alumni president Hon. Reynaldo Catacutan solicited four million pesos to be used as funding for the proposed rehabilitation. The benefactors are Tarlac Governor Susan Yap, Tarlac City Mayor Cristy Angeles, 2nd District Representative Christian Tell Yap, and 3rd District Representative Noel Rivera.

"Yun pa rin [structure] pero papalitan 'yung tiles, iimprove 'yung kisame, gagawing bakal 'yung kisame siguro para hindi na anayin," Dr. Abalos said.

CAFA alumni president Christian Aaron Bondoc will design the rehabilitation project, which will materialize next year.

The association is also planning to put benches in the future TSU Alumni Park at the back of the Alumni Center that



is targeted to be built next year. This park is envisioned as an area where students can stay during their break or whenever they need a space for reviewing.

Furthermore, the university's alumni entrepreneurs will be invited to put up their businesses in the food park within the Alumni Park. TSU students can apply as part-time workers to man the businesses' kiosks giving them additional income to support their studies.

Another project in the pipeline is a magazine or journal comprised of various activities and accomplishments

of local and international alumni chapters from 2019 to 2022. The magazine will be published in partnership with the Office of Public Affairs before the officers' term ends.

It will also feature the association's plans and the insights of former TSU president Dr. Myrna Q. Mallari, incumbent TSU president Dr. Arnold E. Velasco, and alumni president Hon. Catacutan.

College alumni coordinators were tasked to create group chats and Facebook

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pages for their respective colleges to easily communicate and trace their alumni.

As the association slowly builds up its network of scholars, a “kapehan,” aimed to introduce further the Alumni Affairs Office and the TSUAAI to current and prospective scholars and partners, is eyed to be held with funding from the local and international alumni chapters.

Currently, TSUAAI has 39 scholars – six are funded by the Singapore chapter, five from the USA chapter, two from the UAE chapter, and 26 from the association itself.

Two additional international chapters in Australia and China will be established soon. At the same time, a local chapter for Performing Arts alumni will be launched at the upcoming alumni night in October 2022, where they will present a special number.

“Ang unang hinihingi kasi talaga namin sa mga chapters na ine-establish ay tulong sa mga scholarships talaga para sa mga estudyanteng nangangailangan,” Dr. Abalos told OPA.

The planning session was attended by TSUAAI officers, namely alumni president Hon. Catacutan, vice president



Dr. Michaela Sagun, treasurer Dr. Jasper Jay Mendoza, secretary Dr. Erwin Lacanlale, business manager Dr. Elsie Canlas, and the colleges’ alumni presidents.

This is the last planning activity of the TSUAAI officers of 2019-2022, as the association is set to elect new officers this October.

TSU Unity Cup 2022 caps off with first-ever awards ceremony; NASA team hailed as champions

■ Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan

Tarlac State University’s Unity Basketball Cup 2022 concluded with an awards ceremony held last July 15, 2022 at the University Hotel, Lucinda Campus.

This is the first time that the organizers held a concluding ceremony on a different day, which was followed by a celebration.

Said ceremony recognized the winning basketball teams and individuals who exhibited exemplary performance throughout the tournament, with the NASA team (Non-Academic Staff Association) as champions.

The team, led by their captain Dr. Jonathan A. Gabriel (Internal Audit Services Office Director), was hailed as champs after winning the third game of the finals match against Team Maestro Lucinda (Lucinda Faculty) with a score of 80-73 on July 7, 2022.

In an interview after the match, Dr. Gabriel said that their team’s hard work allowed them to bounce back and retain their composure during the game. He also said their team’s performance was excellent since they only lost once in the entire season.

“Dahil kapag hindi excellent ‘yung performance na ‘yon, hindi namin matatalo ‘yung malakas na team. Malakas ang team ng Lucinda faculty, sobra. May



mga coaches talaga sila... very technical. Swerte kami, nanalo kami,” he said.

Maestro Lucinda emerged as the first runner-up of the tournament with Team FDMO (Facilities Development and Management Office) and Team CSU-CCJE (joint team of Civil Security Unit and College of Criminal Justice Education) taking second and third runner-up spots, respectively.

Meanwhile, University President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco said in a message that he was happy with the conduct and broadcasting of the games.

“Wala akong specific team na pinapaboran, pero masaya ako na nakikitang masaya rin ang lahat... This is one of the ways where we can all be united.

Makakaasa po kayo na lahat ng mga bagay na you’d propose that will make TSU be united, nandoon po ako,” he said.

Moreover, Pres. Velasco said he is looking forward to more games other than basketball, like volleyball and badminton, so more employees will participate.

Unity Cup lead organizer Dr. Winston F. Abalos (Alumni Affairs Director) thanked Pres. Velasco, other TSU officials, and the players for their unwavering support during his closing remarks.

“Salamat. Dahil sa inyo, naging successful ito. ‘Nung opening pa lang, alam ko na magiging successful tayo.

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Especially kay Sir Jonathan at sa guidance niyo (university officials). Siyempre, hindi ko kayang mag-isa ito," he said.

In a separate interview, Dr. Abalos also shared that basketball tournaments among the TSU faculty and personnel were held as early as 2005. These were usually named after the incumbent TSU President. However, Dr. Abalos and his co-organizers chose "Unity" for this year's tournament name.

"Unity Cup kasi medyo sakto 'yung theme. Let's be honest. 'Yung environment natin naging hati dahil sa nangyaring pagbabago. This is one step para ma-unite ulit especially doon sa mga [rank-and-file] employees natin. It makes my heart really

happy na makikita mo 'yung mga janitor, mga [security] na nagsasabi 'Sir, thank you! Buti nabuhay.' 'Yun lang sulit ka na eh. Ito 'yung mga sinasabi nilang priceless moments. Walang pera ang katumbas 'nun. It's really to unify the bridges that are being built dahil sa transition natin sa bagong administrasyon," he said.

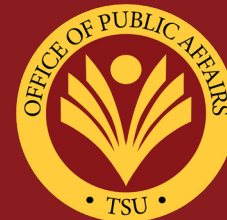
Additionally, Dr. Abalos said another basketball tournament will be held in November or December 2022 to be organized by the Physical Education Department of the College of Teacher Education.

Furthermore, a negotiation is currently in the works for a possible matchup between the TSU faculty and personnel against PBA's (Philippine Basketball Association) Barangay Ginebra San Miguel.

The individual awards handed over during the ceremony are as follows:

Tournament Mythical Team 40 y/o and above	Mr. Francisco Gelbolingo Mr. Glenn Magaway Mr. Zuriel Tabian Mr. Rosel Corpus Mr. Jason Felipe Dr. Jonathan Gabriel
Tournament Mythical Team 39 y/o and below	Mr. Dexter Dela Rosa Mr. Misael Cabansag Mr. Enrico Martin Mr. Sherwin De Vera
Most Valuable Player (MVP)	Mr. Dexter Dela Rosa
Season's MVP	Mr. Sherwin De Vera
Most Defensive Player	Mr. Francisco Gelbolingo
Sportsmanship Award	Dr. Roswald Fermin
6th-man Award	Dr. Erwin Mina
Team of the Tournament	Management Information Systems Office (MISO)

The basketball cup is part of the university's wellness program, which promotes a healthy lifestyle among its employees. Moreover, it also seeks to reinforce unity, camaraderie, and socialization among employees of the different campuses.



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TSU continues in-person graduation rites for baccalaureate programs, produces 1,017 honor graduates

■ Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan (with reports from Maria Adelaida D. Calayag)



Tarlac State University's 33rd Commencement Exercises were held in a series of limited face-to-face ceremonies from June to July 2022 with 4,336 graduates.

This is the first-time students from bachelor's degree programs have experienced face-to-face graduation rites since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

The university conducted daily graduation ceremonies with morning and afternoon sessions from July 19-22 to accommodate 4,210 bachelor's degree graduates at the TSU Gymnasium.

In the same week, 20 Juris Doctor graduates from the School of Law had their separate graduation ceremony at the TSU Alumni Center of the Lucinda Campus on July 18, 2022.

Last June 27, the university

sent off its first batch of Capas Campus graduates composed of 66 students from BS Criminology, Bachelor of Public Administration, and Bachelor of Elementary Education. The ceremony was held at Kastelo Verde in Capas, Tarlac.

Meanwhile, 40 master's and doctoral degree graduates were conferred their degrees on the following day, June 28, at the TSU Gymnasium.

Though the Tarlac Province has been consistently under Alert Level 1 since March 2022, the university administration deemed it necessary to hold the commencement exercises in parts. The number of graduates and their guests was limited to prevent and minimize the possibility of spreading the COVID-19 virus.

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“
**Quotes from the
 Graduation Speakers**
 ”



Comm. Emerson B. Aquende

*Commissioner,
 Philippine Competition Commission*

“I strongly advice our graduates never to allow anyone to tell you that you are made of lesser stuff because you had most of your education by virtual learning. You are tough men and women and will become tough future lawyers, because you were forged by difficulties and born in adversity”



Dr. Maria Carmen P. Cuenco

*Schools Division Superintendent,
 Tarlac City Schools Division*

“Be catalysts of change. Yes, there will definitely be resistance. But remember this, initiate change with a heart – may puso. Because no matter how transformative, innovative, and interconnected your education was, it is doing things with a heart that matters most – may puso, may malasakit, may pagmamahal”



Dr. Leonida S. Calagui, CESO III

Director, CHEDRO III

“My dear graduates, welcome to the real world – the teaching profession. Whether you will be serving in government or you will serve in private firms, your target clientele will just be the same – the general public. Therefore, give your very best”



Hon. Maria Cristina C. Angeles

Mayor, Tarlac City

“I therefore urge all of you, dear graduates, to find your purpose in life, to find your mission in life, find inspiration in the people you love, and always do what you believe is right... I'm not saying it is going to be easy... It doesn't matter how long it takes to fulfill them. Just keep pushing forward; because every step you take, no matter how small, takes you closer to the realization of your dreams.



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TSU produces two summa cum laude graduates from CTED

Among the 1,017 honor graduates of TSU, the university awarded two summa cum laude graduates from the College of Teacher Education (CTED) in the 33rd Commencement Exercises.



The CTED graduates with the highest academic distinction are Mikaela P. Millo and Rekarlo S. Punzalan, whose general weighted averages (GWA) are 1.24 and 1.19, respectively. Each gave the valedictory address for their separate batches on the CTED graduation day.

Punzalan, a Bachelor of Secondary Education major in Mathematics graduate, is the first-ever

TSU-DOST scholar to be presented as summa cum laude.

As a recipient of the highest honors, he expressed gratitude towards his family, friends, and the relationships he forged, finding inspiration in them.

“Nabigla ako dahil hindi ko inexpect na aabot sa threshold ng summa cum laude ang cumulative GWA ko... Pero natutuwa ako, at thankful ako kay Lord sa gabay Niya, sa family ko na ever supportive sa akin, at sa mga kaibigan ko na nagbibigay ng motivation at inspiration sa akin,” he said in an interview.

He also said that his parents



did everything they could to give him a bright future and were genuinely proud of his achievements.

In his valedictory address,

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he talked about the current state of the Philippine education system and challenged his fellow graduates on what they can do as future educators.

“Let us raise our glasses, make a toast, and a promise that we, graduates, will strive to revive what was once lost and prove na hindi tayo ‘eduk’ lang, na hindi tayo teacher lang; dahil tayo ang magtataguyod sa pag-unlad ng susunod na henerasyon ng bansang Pilipinas. Cheers! We hope – no, we don’t hope, we will see each other again at the oath taking ceremony next year,”



he said in his speech.

Meanwhile, Millo, a graduate of Bachelor of Elementary Education major in General Education, had mixed emotions when she learned that she would give a valedictory address.

Despite a happy mood, she said she felt a pang of sadness for one of her inspirations, her grandmother, died last year due to COVID-19.

According to her, the dream of becoming a teacher was not her first choice. She wanted to pursue a career



in music. However, it changed when she started joining competitions and was inspired by coaches who unleashed and polished their students’ potential.

“It was my eureka moment. Rather than singing, I could make use of my voice to inspire and touch the lives of little children. I promised myself that someday with God’s grace and perfect time, I will become ‘Ma’am Mikaela,’” Millo said in her speech.

Her speech centered on her grandmother’s advice to “be like a

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Quotes from the Graduation Speakers



Hon. Gina T. Gacusan

Director, NEDA Region III & TSU BOR

“Ang problema, hindi na natin nakikita ang trabaho as a vocation or as a calling. Pero sa atin, lalo na sa Business [Administration], ang tingin natin hindi ito bokasyon. This is a way to make money. I think you are wrong. The most successful people in business did not go into business for money. They went to serve. They were offering a service that nobody has thought of. The extra money was just a bonus”



Hon. Alvin P. Belarmino

TSU BOR

“The mantra is to adapt [to] the changing times, the call of the times. Be an improvement junkie [that’s] addicted to improvement. Try to innovate and commit to constant improvement of yourselves, of your products, of your services. Opportunities have never opened [up] to people who remain where they are”



Hon. Melissa Yeung-Yap

TSU BOR

“ As teachers of future students, dream big not just for yourselves but [also] for your future students. Teach them how to dream big also so they can be successful, and we can also be successful together... As future teachers, I just wanted to share with you na sana... you teach with utmost competence. And when you teach your students knowledge, please also teach them how to love by teaching with love”

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bamboo.” She also reflected that her academic journey at TSU taught her life lessons akin to bamboo.

“With the strong foundations [that] TSU and College of Teacher Education had given us, we are now ready for greater responsibilities: to reach out, render selfless service, and make a realistic difference in society. With the bamboo lessons in our hearts, I encourage you to continue reaching for more – more for ourselves, more for our society, and more for our country,” she added.

In a statement, CTED dean Dr. Jasper Jay N. Mendoza said that their graduates’ success is dear to his heart and their stories reflect the years of their training under the college.

“Their achievement is also the achievement of our faculty members who spent tireless nights to teach the students in becoming the person they have grown to be,” he said.

He also talked about the pressure brought by the upcoming board examination for teachers since this is the first batch of graduates under the enhanced curriculum.

“On one hand, this happiness that I have with the students is coupled with the feeling of pressure. I also share with what the students feel [about] their upcoming licensure examination, and I am sure that our students will bring with them the things they learned in the college, not just for the licensure exam but also further and beyond in



the field of the teaching profession,” he added.

Aside from the two summa cum laude graduates, TSU also produced 82 magna cum laude and 933 cum laude graduates in the June-July 2022 graduation.

Honor and commemoration

One of the 82 magna cum laude graduates is Jan Josef Dela Cruz from the College of Business and Accountancy. He completed a Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management degree on the first day of the graduation week.

Dela Cruz said their batch entered a new phase since the pandemic where some lost hope, opportunities, and even loved ones, like him.

“Just to share, my mother did not make it to witness this momentous event due to cancer. I guess uncertainty may be mutual and inevitable, but it is so important to embrace it. It is there to either make or break us. Nonetheless, remember that

there are people who are willing to help us through these unprecedented times. As we celebrate this milestone today, let us not forget the people who played significant role[s] [in shaping] us to the person we are today,” he said in his speech.

His father, Alvin Dela Cruz, 53, was spotted at the gymnasium’s bleachers holding a framed photo of his late wife and Jan Josef’s mother, who died from colon cancer in November last year.

According to Jan Josef’s father, they intended to bring his late wife’s photo to the graduation so they could still be with her as they witnessed the momentous event.

“Kasi hindi na inabot ng mama niya ‘yung graduation kasi last year pumanaw ‘yung mama niya dahil nagka-cancer. Kaya dinala namin (picture frame) para kahit ganito lang, makita niya kung paano gumraduate ‘yung anak nya,” the father said.

On the same day of the CBA graduation, former TSU president Dr. Myrna Q. Mallari received the Lifetime Achievement Award for serving the university for more than 42 years.

The award is a commendation for her commitment and numerous services to the university in attaining its mission to become a premier university in the Asia Pacific.

Dr. Mallari served TSU from 1979 to 2022 and was the university president during her last eight years at the university.

During her term, the university received the Level IV Institutional Accreditation (IA) from the Accrediting



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Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACCU), attained 100% program accreditation, passed the Institutional Sustainability Assessment (ISA) of the Commission on Higher Education, and was awarded the proficiency level in the Philippine Quality Award (PQA).

BOR members and other officials invited as guest speakers

The June to July 2022 graduation featured guests of honor and speakers from the TSU Board of Regents (BOR) members and other high-ranking officials.

The ceremonies centered around the theme “Transformative, Innovative, and Interconnected Higher Education; Paving the Way to Greater Heights and Stronger Tomorrows.”

The BOR members echoed similar sentiments in their speeches, giving the



On the first day of graduation ceremonies for baccalaureate programs, particularly for the CBA, NEDA (National Economic and Development Authority) Region III Director Hon. Gina T. Gacusan and Private Sector Representative Hon. Alvin P. Belarmino were invited as guest speakers for the morning and afternoon sessions, respectively.

CHED (Commission on Higher Education) Region III Director Hon. Leonida S. Calagui stood before the CTed graduates during the morning session and urged them to find their path and bring honor to their families, their alma mater, and the country. Meanwhile, in the afternoon session of the CTed graduation, Regent Melissa Yeung-Yap served as the guest speaker.

DOST (Department of Science and Technology) Regional Director Hon. Julius Caesar V. Sicat graced the third graduation day (morning session). He talked about how education is the greatest equalizer.

In the afternoon session of the third day and during the Capas Campus

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graduates tips and advice based on their personal life experiences. They hoped their sharing would help these future professionals grow and succeed in their chosen professions.



“
Quotes from the
Graduation Speakers
”



Hon. Julius Caesar V. Sicat

Director, DOST III & TSU BOR

“Perhaps the most valuable result of all education is the ability to make yourself do the things you have to do when it ought to be done whether you like it or not. Being prepared to do that, being prepared to do your role, being prepared to be remarkable, being prepared to be fabulous – that’s the essence of transformative education”



Hon. Dennis Norman T. Go

TSU BOR

“When your heart and your mind intersect, you’re not only following your dreams but following the desires of your heart. When you’re able to teach your heart and your mind, then throughout your life in the university of life, you would be able to say na, ‘Ako [ay] may matalinong puso at mapagmahal na isip. Hindi na ako mahihirapan na magdesisyon, kasi naturuan ko ang puso ko para maging matalinong puso. Naturuan ko ang isip ko para maging mapagmahal na isip.’ And that is the best you can achieve in the university of life”



Hon. Reynaldo L. Catacutan

TSU BOR

“Do not stop learning, do not stop dreaming. Hindi dito nagtatapos ang lahat. Kumbaga sa araw na ito, step one pa lang kayo. The next day, aim higher and climb the ladder. Sa mga AB Communication at AB English graduates, ang ilan sa inyo mga future journalists, PR practitioners, writers, filmmakers, marketing executives, or even educators. You will help us shape society. Sa mga graduate po ng AB Psychology, some of you may become practicing psychologists, social workers, guidance counselors, mediators, and you will help us change and [realize] what we need to do more.”

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graduation, TSU Alumni Association president Hon. Reynaldo L. Catacutan gave inspiring messages to the graduates.

The last among the BOR members to give a graduation message is Hon. Dennis Norman T. Go who talked about the “university of life.”

Other high-ranking officials

invited as guest speakers are Tarlac City Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Maria Carmen P. Cuenco for the graduate programs and Philippine Competition Commission Commissioner Emerson B. Aquende for the School of Law.

Dr. Cuenco challenged the graduates to be catalysts of change. At the same time, Comm. Aquende uplifted and reminded the graduates

that virtual education is still valid education.

Tarlac City Mayor Hon. Cristy Angeles also spoke before the College of Computer Studies (CCS) graduates via an audio-visual message where she honored their hardships and sacrifices. According to the mayor, it is her duty to create opportunities, so they won't go far to look for greener pastures.



TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATION

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL PASSERS! JUNE 2022 CRIMINOLOGY LICENSURE EXAMINATION

FIRST TIME TAKERS

INSTITUTIONAL PASSING RATE

NATIONAL PASSING RATE

100%
28.57%
30.39%

The TSU community is very proud of you!



TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY

Vision

Tarlac State University is envisioned to be a premier University in the Asia Pacific Region.

Mission

Tarlac State University commits to promote and sustain the offering of quality and relevant programs in higher and advanced education ensuring equitable access to education for people empowerment, professional development, and global competitiveness.

Towards this end, TSU shall:

- 1.) Provide high quality instruction through qualified, competent and adequately trained faculty members and support staff.
- 2.) Be a premier research institution by enhancing research undertakings in the fields of technology and sciences and strengthening collaboration with local and international institutions.
- 3.) Be a champion in community development by strengthening partnership with public and private organizations and individuals

Quality Policy

Tarlac State University is committed to continuously strive for global competitiveness and excellence in the delivery of instruction, research, extension (training and consultancy), and administrative support services, compliant to regulatory and statutory requirements for the utmost satisfaction of its valued customers while ensuring safe and healthy working conditions for its students, employees, clientele and reducing environmental impact of its operations.