



June 2024 Volume XIV No.1

A Publication of the
Philippine Association of
Colleges and Universities

Newsletter



LEADING THE HIGHER EDUCATION FRONTIER

PACU's Strategic Achievements in
Advancing Philippine Education

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and the CHED Charter, Policy Changes in School Calendar,
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

PACU's Strategic Achievements in Advancing Philippine Education

— Engr. Bernard Nicolas E. Villamor, *President*

The Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities (PACU) has remained a pivotal force in driving educational advancements and shaping policy reforms, playing a vital role in the evolution of Philippine education. This report outlines significant achievements and key initiatives from October 2023 to June 2024, highlighting the collective efforts and strategic leadership within our organization.

Policy Advocacy and Enhancement Initiatives

1. Engagement with DepEd for Policy Improvements

We have been instrumental in driving policy improvements through quarterly meetings with the DepEd Executive Committee led by former DepEd Secretary, Vice President Sara Duterte, and organized by the DepEd Private Education Office:

- **SHS Program Consultation:** Representatives attended the DepEd consultation workshop on October 9-10, 2023. This program aimed at addressing issues in SHS implementation and gathering inputs for curriculum review.
- **DepEd Order No. 26, S. 2023:** This was communicated to member schools, providing guidance about the two-year compliance period to acquire a permit to operate.
- **DepEd Order No. 6 s. 2024 Public and Private Basic Education Complementarity Framework:** PACU contributed in developing an Implementation Roadmap and actively engaged in policy dialogues to promote collaboration between public and private educational institutions.
- **School Calendar Amendment:** Efforts were undertaken to coordinate with member schools' responses and concerns regarding the proposed amendments to DepEd Order No. 22, s. 2023, to gradually shift the school calendar year.
- **Ongoing discussion on the Revised Manual of Regulations for Private Basic Education:** A position paper was drafted outlining comments and suggestions to the proposed policy. Coordination is still ongoing to ensure that the revised manual to be is responsive to the needs of private schools, while maintaining DepEd's reasonable regulation and supervision over them.

2. Programmatic Initiatives for Sustainable Education

We have focused on enhancing the sustainability of educational programs through various collaborative efforts:

- **MATATAG Curriculum Summit:** In partnership with COCOPEA and CEAP, PACU organized the MATATAG Curriculum Summit on January 2024, to foster discussions on curriculum improvements and educational strategies. The Summit facilitated members' participation in DepEd training sessions, including the National Training of Regional Trainers on the MATATAG Curriculum and regional training sessions with COCOPEA and REX Education.

3. Process Enhancements for Inclusivity and Efficiency in Higher Education

Significant steps have been taken to improve inclusiveness and operational efficiency in the education sector:

- **CHED-AIM GALP Program:** Ensured member awareness of the postponed Global Academic Leadership Program (GALP) and extended application deadlines to maximize participation.
- **Quality Assurance and Visioning Workshops:** Participated in CHED's Visioning Workshop and Quality Assurance Conference, providing valuable input on quality assurance practices and the development of a Theory of Change for higher education.

4. Strengthening Alliances with COCOPEA and PEAC

Collaborations with COCOPEA and PEAC have been crucial in aligning educational strategies:

- **COCPEA Meetings:** Active participation in COCOPEA meetings, including an Execom board meeting, to discuss enriched discussion on strategic planning, budget management, and the role of educational associations.
- **PEAC-ASPIRE Vetting Committee:** Our representation in the PEAC-ASPIRE Vetting Committee for AY 2024-2025 ensured active involvement in enhancing educational programs.

5. Active Participation in Events and Conferences

We have been engaged in organizing and attending events to promote educational progress and collaboration:

- **COCPEA Biennial Congress 2024:** Members, together with the COCOPEA



member associations, were brought together. With the theme: “Leading Educational Frontiers Together,” the Congress highlighted the importance of innovation and the private education sector’s significant role in shaping the hearts and minds of future generations.

- **PhilEd Conference 2023:** Members participated in the 2023 PhilEd Conference, engaging in discussions on significant education reforms.
- **National Higher Education Day Summit 2024:** Our attendance to this summit contributed to the discussions on access, quality, and competitiveness in higher education reforms.

6. Capacity Building, Strategic Partnerships, and Collaboration

We have initiated and strengthened various partnerships with government, private sector, key industries, and academe to shape education policy, enhance educational opportunities and industry alignment for workforce development, and develop capacity-building programs for member institutions.

- **Capacity Building:** This brought relevant and timely education topics for discussion and action through the ASPIRE grant from the Private Education Assistance Committee. Under the Program entitled: “Future Philippine Education Trajectories, Transitions, and Transformations,” the Programs Committee conducted the Webinar on “The Rise and Perils of Artificial Intelligence.” The Committee on Institutional Quality Improvement (CIQI) also conducted two LAMP Summits (Leadership and Management Perspectives in Higher Education) on (1) “Education without Borders: Pathways to Internationalization for Higher Education Institutions”; and (2) “Lifelong Learning Pathways: Revolutionizing Education Through Microcredentials and Digital Badges”. With PEAC and USAID through its UPSKILL Program (US-Philippines Partnership for Skills, Innovation, and Lifelong Learning Program), our group collaborated on a capacity-building event on Generative AI. CIQI worked with PEAC and USAID-UPSKILL on “Harnessing AI Potential: A Policy Writeshop on Acceptable Use in Education.” The participants were able to engage in a policy drafting exercise, encouraging members to create guidelines for acceptable and ethical AI use in higher education institutions. The output made was a template or guidebook for member academic institutions that they can contextualize based on the specific institution’s needs, objectives, goals, and culture/tradition. The Policy Writeshop was followed by another AI Summit on “Advancing AI Capability, Promoting AI Safety” in collaboration with a member school, University of Sto. Tomas (UST), as the main organizer (Is UST the main organizer or another school?); together with PEAC, UPSKILL as program sponsors. It builds upon the discussions of the community of practice for AI during the AI Policy Writeshop.

- **Government Industry Academe (GIA) Linkages:** PACU's engagement with GIA opened opportunity for participation in agency-led visioning workshops and strategic planning sessions on strengthening higher education, workforce development, and innovation systems for inclusive growth in the Philippines. These include: (1) two workshops led by CHED and TESDA with the support of USAID-UPSKILL concurrently; (2) high-level and multistakeholder meetings organized by different organizations such as EDCOM 2, Philippine Business for Education, IT Business Process Outsourcing Association of the Philippines (ITBPAP), Philippine Qualifications Framework-National Coordinating Council, Department of Trade and Industry-Philippine Trade Training Center, Export Development Council (EDC) Networking Committee on Education and Human Resource Development (NCEHRD), Asia Society for Social Improvement and Sustainable Transformation (ASSIST), among others.

- ◊ **Philippine Skills Framework Launch:** We participated in the launching of the Philippine Skills Framework for the ICT industry, which aligns education with industry needs and promotes a globally competitive workforce as well as in two separate kick-off events organized by the DICT and IT-BPM PSF Consortium. We continue to engage with the DTI, TESDA, and the Industry Councils to ensure the alignment and development of curricular programs that are responsive to industry and societal needs.
- ◊ **NAST Roundtable Discussion:** We also engaged in a series of roundtable discussions with the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) on (1) Focus Group Discussion on Policies and Regulations adversely affecting Philippine R&D Output; and (2) increasing Filipino STEM PhD and MS graduates, contributing to enhancing STEM education.

- **Stratbase ADR:** The contract with Stratbase was renewed to focus on a proactive education policy agenda setting and strategic planning, ensuring effective advocacy for private education in the medium and long term.

- **Partnerships and Sponsorships:** We are grateful for the generosity and warm support of our sponsors in our journey for excellence in education: Private Education Assistance Committee, USAID-RTI UPSKILL, REX Education, Diplomasafe, Kahoot, Labster-UbiSim, Globe Business, Turnitin, and C&E Adaptive Learning Solutions.

Under the collective leadership of the Board of Trustees, committee chairs, and dedicated members, significant milestones have been achieved in policy advocacy, program enhancement, and process improvement.

These achievements reflect our dedication to fostering a more inclusive, sustainable, and credible educational environment in the Philippines. The active participation and contributions of our trustees and officers, who chair committees, including members who generously contribute their time and expertise, have been instrumental in driving these initiatives forward. 



LEGAL STANDPOINT

Philippine Education Through the Prism of Law:

Where PACU Stands on Amendments to the Constitution and the CHED Charter, and Policy Changes in School Calendar and Alternative Modes of Delivery

— Atty. Maya Angelique B. Jajalla

In resolving the issue of what ‘capital’ means in Section 11, Article XII of the Constitution, which involves either upholding or weakening the principle of ‘nationalism’ in ownership of corporations operating public utilities, the Supreme Court acknowledged that the fundamental question at hand is whether Filipinos or foreigners will exert **effective control** over the national economy.

In *Gamboa v. Teves*, the Court was unequivocal, stating that the resolution of this issue will determine whether Filipinos are **masters**, or **second class citizens**, in their own country.

The Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities (PACU) has taken a stance on several recent critical issues in Philippine education. Foremost among these is Resolutions of Both Houses No. 6 (Senate) and No. 7 (House of Representatives), which propose amendments to Paragraph 2, Section 4, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution.

Currently, this provision mandates that educational institutions must be owned and controlled by Filipino citizens or corporations at least 60% owned by Filipinos. The proposed amendments seek to relax these restrictions, potentially allowing increased foreign participation in the ownership and administration of educational institutions.

Thus, when the private education sector was given the chance to weigh in on the matter, PACU echoed the principle articulated by the Supreme Court: What is at stake is whether Filipinos or

foreigners will have **effective control** of the Philippine Education System. The outcome of this debate will decide whether Filipinos are **primary stakeholders** or **secondary citizens** in their own country.

PACU’s Reservations on Resolutions of Both Houses No. 6 and No. 7

PACU, through its Legal Team, has expressed serious reservations regarding the proposed amendments to Paragraph 2, Section 4, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution.

It argues that the current constitutional provisions are essential to safeguard national patrimony and ensure that education remains a domain controlled by Filipinos. This control is crucial for maintaining cultural integrity and national identity.

Secondly, PACU raises concerns about the procedural integrity of the proposed amendments, emphasizing that any changes to the Constitution must strictly adhere to prescribed legal processes. This includes clear differentiation between the roles of the Legislature and a Constituent Assembly or Constitutional Convention, as well as ensuring that any amendments undergo thorough debate and public scrutiny.

While PACU supports the vision of producing globally competitive citizens, it asserts that this objective should be pursued through careful, data-driven analysis rather than constitutional amendments. The existing constitutional

framework already offers sufficient flexibility to enhance educational quality and access without compromising national control.

In fact, we already have the **Transnational Higher Education Act (R.A. No. 11448)**, which allows foreign citizens to make up to 80% of the faculty and 40% of the administrative staff in local branches of foreign universities. It was enacted precisely to answer the same issues and concerns that have prompted proposals to amend the subject Constitutional provisions.

Instead of amending the Constitution, we respectfully ask Congress to focus on strengthening this law by developing, supporting, and incentivizing its implementation.

Improving RA No. 1148 is the best way to tackle these concerns without changing our Constitution and compromising national control.

PACU's Concerns on Senate Bill No. 2270

Senate Bill No. 2270 proposes amendments to the charter of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), introducing new provisions that PACU argues could impose significant burdens and punitive measures on private higher education institutions (PHEIs).

One of the primary concerns highlighted by PACU is the introduction of Section 8(f) to RA 7722, which mandates PHEIs to submit compliance reports thrice a year to both CHED and the Congress. PACU contends that this requirement imposes an undue administrative and financial burden on PHEIs, who already comply with multiple reporting obligations to various government agencies. The association proposes that annual reporting to CHED would suffice to achieve the bill's objectives without overburdening institutions.

Another contentious issue outlined in PACU's Position Paper is the proposed penalties under Senate Bill No. 2270, which include program termination, school closure, and a PHP 5 million fine for non-compliance. PACU argues that these penalties are disproportionately severe and could jeopardize the viability and sustainability of smaller educational institutions, which may lack sufficient government support.

In response to the proposed amendments, PACU urges the 19th Congress to establish clear parameters for CHED's supervisory responsibilities that balance effective oversight with minimal regulatory burdens on PHEIs. The association asserts that educational institutions should retain the autonomy to choose their affiliations and partnerships while ensuring a safe and secure environment for students.

PACU's Stance on Department Order No. 003

Department of Education (DepEd) Order No. 003, series of 2024, proposes calendar shifts for the academic years 2025-2026, 2026-2027, and 2027-2028.

PACU recognizes the rationale behind the proposed shift to a June-March academic calendar to avoid the extremely warm months of April and May. However, shifting the calendar to start in June reintroduces another set of problems. June marks the beginning of the rainy season in the Philippines, bringing heavy rains and typhoons which have also caused significant disruptions in the past.

Thus, while shifting the academic calendar to avoid the hot months may offer a temporary solution to some weather-related disruptions, it does not fully resolve the challenges posed by extreme weather conditions. PACU advocates for a comprehensive approach that includes investing in weather-resilient infrastructure and adopting flexible learning modalities.



Coordination of any shift in the academic calendar must be conducted in close collaboration with private schools, many of which have already aligned their calendars with international norms. This alignment enhances compatibility with foreign counterparts, facilitating student mobility and global collaboration. Consistency with international academic calendars is crucial for advancing strategic goals within ASEAN, raising educational standards regionally, and ensuring students can fully benefit from international educational opportunities.

In the event that a calendar shift is deemed necessary, PACU strongly advocates for a gradual implementation rather than a hasty one. A sudden change could disrupt established routines for students, teachers, and parents, and may impact contractual agreements schools have with their staff and suppliers. Through careful coordination, PACU aims to foster a more resilient and effective educational system.

PACU's Support on the Full Implementation of ADM

PACU also addresses the implementation of alternative delivery modes (ADMs) in education, which has gained prominence due to the COVID-19 pandemic and should be systematically integrated, contingent upon robust quality assurance mechanisms.

Recognizing the transformative potential of ADMs, PACU aims to enhance educational flexibility, accessibility, and inclusivity. This approach is crucial for accommodating diverse learning needs and ensuring equitable access to education, particularly for students in remote or underserved areas. PACU emphasizes the need for tailored support for students with disabilities, marginalized communities, and those facing challenges in accessing digital resources.

These modes can help bridge educational gaps and ensure continuous learning opportunities

despite disruptions such as pandemics, extreme weather conditions, or natural disasters.

PACU strongly supports the institutionalization of blended learning as a permanent option for basic education. Blended learning integrates in-person and online education, combining the benefits of traditional face-to-face instruction with the flexibility to accommodate individual learning paces and preferences. This approach is particularly advantageous in urban areas to alleviate traffic congestion and during emergencies to maintain educational continuity.

While PACU recognizes the value of face-to-face interactions in providing a comprehensive basic education, it advocates for the allowance of full-distance learning under extreme circumstances, such as severe health conditions or public health emergencies. This ensures that students can continue their education without compromising their well-being.

In the ever-evolving landscape of global and local education, amidst shifting political dynamics, PACU remains steadfast in advocating for its core principles as articulated in its **Credo**: (1) Filipinism in education; (2) Democratizing access to higher education; (3) Attainment of educational goals and objectives in the Constitution; (4) Educational reforms and innovative programs for national growth and development; (5) Institutional autonomy and academic freedom; (6) Institutional excellence and quality standards; (7) Self-reliance on Filipino culture, resources, and capabilities; (8) Participatory democracy in educational policy; and (9) Good international relationships through education.

Here's to peace and goodwill towards all men. 

Wesleyan University-Philippine's Journey to AUN-QA

— John Jason M. Villaroman, Ph.D.

Wesleyan University- Philippines has found a new measure of academic quality as two administrators joined the ASEAN University Network- Quality Assurance (AUN-QA) Tier 1 training on April 2-5 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Academic Affairs Vice President Dr. Wilfredo C. Ramos and Quality Assurance Director Dr. John Jason M. Villaroman's initiative is a prelude to international accreditation and discovering the AUN-QA perks.



The training has become an eye-opener for Wesleyan University- Philippines to take the challenge for continuous improvement.

Further, the AUN-QA framework is a remarkable tool not only in providing quality assurance in instruction, research, extension programs, and productivity but more importantly in empowering learners who can contribute to nation-building.

This framework has eight vital criteria namely Expected Learning Outcomes, Programme Structure and Content, Teaching and Learning Approach, Student Assessment, Academic Staff, Student Support Services, Facilities and Infrastructures, and Outcomes and Outputs.

The core of the training sessions facilitates educators and academic administrators to gain an in-depth understanding of the significance of aligning the curriculum's expected learning outcomes to the needs of the industry and society today.

Based on the latest guidelines for the application and renewal of autonomous status, CMO 6, s.2023, international accreditation is an integral part in pursuit of delivering transformative education.



The university is firmly committed to obtaining the AUN-QA associate membership and Programme Assessment for bigger possibilities of collaborations and partnerships with esteemed AUN-QA universities globally.

The Tier 1 training led by Dr. Tan Kay Chuan of the National University Singapore and his colleagues was also graced by some of the well-known ASEAN universities such as University of the Philippines - Los Baños, Ateneo de Manila University, Silpakorn University, University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Hue University, and Svay Rieng University. 🌐



Mapúa MCL earns 3 Stars in Quacquarelli Symonds Rating System anew

— Lois Gabrielle Tobias



MAPÚA
MALAYAN COLLEGES
LAGUNA

MAPÚA EXCELLENCE
IN LAGUNA



According to Quacquarelli Symonds, universities and institutions are awarded a 3-star rating for delivering quality teaching, preparing graduates who are in demand by employers, actively working towards meeting international education standards, engaging in innovative research, and exploring new teaching methods.

In 2020, Mapúa MCL first received its three QS Stars Overall rating alongside five stars for Employability and four stars for Facilities.

Now with 5 QS Stars in three (3) individual categories, Mapúa MCL highlights its strong focus on preparing graduates for successful careers, providing flexible learning options to students, and fulfilling its mission to produce social wealth from the generation of new knowledge.

In 2024, Mapúa MCL also received 4 QS Stars in Teaching, 3 Stars in Academic Development, Inclusiveness, and Engineering (Mechanical), and 1 Star for Internationalization.

Mapúa MCL's performance in the QS Stars Rating System is a valuable benchmark, a significant milestone, and a renewal of its commitment to its students.

Mapúa Malay Colleges Laguna (Mapúa MCL) was once again rated as a 3-Star institution by the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Rating System alongside five QS Stars in three distinct categories.

In the said rating system, Mapúa MCL earned the top rating in Employability, Online Learning, and Social Responsibility for the year 2024.

This internationally recognized evaluation system assesses universities across various aspects, providing valuable insights for students.

Moreover, the QS Stars rating is a highly regarded mark of academic quality used to refine an institution's performance strategy and boost its promotion globally, attracting more students and education partners.

By continuously striving to provide quality education and equipping students with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in the professional world, Mapúa MCL can further solidify its position as one of the leading educational institutions in the Philippines. 



Misamis University goes to Kasetsart University: CAS Benchmarking Activity and Faculty Mobility

— Hanzen D. Tomatao, Misamis University

BANGKOK, Thailand - The faculty members of Misamis University (MU) College of Arts & Sciences (CAS) were grateful for the warm welcome extended by Kasetsart University (KU) during their first-ever international collaborative visit.

On the morning of June 11, the first day of the benchmarking activity, Deans, Vice-Deans, and representative Professors from the Faculty of Science, Faculty of Education, Faculty of Humanities, Faculty of Social Sciences, and Department of International Affairs at KU, along with the MU-CAS delegates gathered in a courtesy call.

During this session, participants had the opportunity to introduce themselves and share their expectations for the two-day benchmarking activities.

It was emphasized that everyone was delighted to finally meet in person and looked forward to a strong collaboration.

Moreover, the two universities shared an enlightening experience through the exchange of invaluable insights on educational practices, innovative teaching methods and strategies, and collaborative research opportunities.

The Dean of the KU Faculty of Science expressed his appreciation for the on-site visit following several online meetings and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

To signify the partnership and collaboration between MU and KU, a tree-planting ceremony was held in the afternoon at the KU Faculty of Science grounds.

This activity symbolized a strong and ever-growing partnership between the two universities.

The first day of benchmarking concluded with a short tour of the Inspiration Center at the Faculty of Science, KU, followed by an interesting food tourism immersion where the MU delegates were introduced to some of the best local dishes of Thailand.



On June 13, the second day of benchmarking, the MU delegates had a Facility Immersion at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Faculty of Social Sciences, and the Rajanagarindra Institute of Linguistic and Cultural Studies (RILC).

The MU delegates were exposed to the informative evolution of Thai agricultural development.

Further, four lecturers shared their insights and expertise in a diverse range of fields.

Three lecturers were from MU: College of Arts and Sciences Dean April Farell M. Relacion, Linkage and Networking Officer Dr. Lloyd B. Ranises, and BS Biology Program Head Dr. Nelfa D. Canini.





The KU counterpart was Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ekaphan Kraichak from the Department of Botany, Faculty of Science.

The topics discussed were as follows: “Mindanao, Philippines: Pitfalls, Progress, and Prospects” (Dean Relacion), “Ethnicity and Culture in the Philippines with Emphasis on Subanens and Subanons” (Dr. Ranises), “Ornamental Coral Reef Fish Species from Southern Philippines” (Dr. Canini), and “Climate Change in Terrestrial Ecosystems and What Can a Biologist Do?” (Dr. Kraichak).

The lectures were attended by staff and students of KU's Faculty of Science.

The session concluded with a wrap-up message from Dr. Lloyd B. Ranises, emphasizing the essence of knowledge and cultural exchange.



The first-ever international benchmarking activity and outbound faculty mobility was a remarkable success, enriching MU's international linkages and networking and reinforcing its commitment to internationalization.

The MU delegation included Dean Relacion, Dr. Ranises, Dr. Canini, Strategic Planning Director Atty. Anthony L. Awa, Natural Sciences Department Chair Jonas T. Hingco, English Department Chair Juby H. Vallejo, Physical Education Department Chair Venus S. Velasco, Social Work Program Head Kasey Jane B. Buac, Psychology Program Head Maria Kristina C. Vicente, Community Extensions Representative Hanzen D. Tomatao, and Joicelyn A. Bacus, a Mathematics Department Faculty member. 



From left: Photos above are during the exchange of token between the two partner universities which was graced by Asst. Prof. Dr. Rattanaphon Chuenka (Faculty of Humanities, Department of Literature, KU), Asst. Prof. Dr. Korakit Choomgrat, Associate Dean for International Affairs and Educational Quality Development (Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of History, KU), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Udomluk Koolsriroj, Associate Dean for International Affairs (Faculty of Education, Department of Education, KU), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Apisit Songsasen, Dean, Faculty of Science, KU, Dr. Lloyd B. Ranises, Officer of Linkages and Networking, Dean April Farell M. Relacion (College of Arts & Sciences, MU), and Atty. Anthony L. Awa, Director for Strategic Planning, MU.

Mapúa MCL presents Research Initiatives on Resilience at SECRA Meeting

Mapúa MCL presented two research initiatives on resilience during the Strengthening University-Enterprise Collaboration for Resilient Communities in Asia (SECRA) Meeting held from October 8 to 14, 2023 at Mid Sweden University in Östersund, Sweden.

SECRA is a three-year project co-funded by the Erasmus+ Program of the European Union (EU) aimed at promoting the development of resilient communities in Asia by creating innovative and productive collaborative projects between academic institutions and their industry partners within the umbrella of disaster risk reduction and management.

Mapúa MCL Research Dir. Dr. Hermie V. Articono presented a developing research project and a published paper by faculty members, both reflecting the research thrust of the institution anchored primarily on sustainability and technology development.

These research initiatives are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 11 and 17.

SDG 11 is anchored on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

On the other hand, SDG 17 focuses on promoting global partnerships for sustainable development – the main objective of the SECRA program.

The first research project presented, titled “PROJECT LAWA: Design and Implementation of Computational Modeling and Integrated Mapping for Water Quality Monitoring,” was led by Prof. Jonalyn G. Ebron from the College of Computer and Information Science.

This pathway centers on the development of technology that can help us understand and manage environmental hazards useful during disasters which can aid the needs of the community post-disaster events.

Meanwhile, the second presented work is a published paper in the business category, titled “Impact of Entrepreneurial Characteristics on the Business Resiliency of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises in the Philippines,” authored by Prof. Donn Enrique L. Moreno from the E.T. Yuchengco College of Business.

The said paper is anchored on building resilient Micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), which can help sustain the economy, especially during the aftermath of devastating disasters. Maintaining sources of income is crucial in rebuilding communities during the post-disaster recovery period.

Mapúa MCL’s Project Lawa falls under the first category, while the study on resilient MSMEs falls under the second category.



Project Lawa aims to create an efficient AI-based water quality monitoring system that employs computational modeling and integrated mapping to help protect the lakes in the CALABARZON Region.

An efficient and accurate system that would regularly monitor the general health of the lakes in the region is crucial in building sustainable and resilient communities.

The Project Lawa Team hopes to raise awareness and concern on the issues surrounding water quality and solicit action by bringing together local communities, agencies, Local Government Units (LGU), Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders near the target lake where the technology will be deployed.

From another standpoint, the author of the published paper on MSMEs, Prof. Moreno, sees business resilience as equally vital as building sturdy infrastructures and communities that can withstand disasters.

Understanding the entrepreneurial characteristics and their contribution to the rise of a resilient entrepreneurial mindset is integral in shaping the behavior of local business people.

Specifically, this aims to create a mindset that can survive and consistently endure yearly episodes of calamities in the Philippines, such as typhoons, flooding, and other usual geographically related disasters affecting MSMEs.

Overall, the successful week-long SECRA Sweden Meeting became a venue for fruitful academic and research discussions, giving partner institutions from Thailand, Sri Lanka, the UK, Estonia, the Philippines, and Sweden the opportunity to discuss important environmental, social, academic, and governance issues.

The participants from the 13 partner academic institutions discussed the main targets of their work packages, including policy review plans, future research projects on resilience, and collaborative strategies that would help achieve the common endeavor of building a stronger and more resilient Asian community.





Mapua MCL Sets Sail in Furthering Higher Education in Partnership with Business College of Athens

— Bea Patricia C. Marin

Mapua Malayan Colleges Laguna (Mapua MCL) continues to make waves in the field of higher education in producing globally competitive individuals with its partnership with the Business College of Athens (BCA), launching the country's first master's degree program that aims to advance and professionalize the shipping business practice.

The Master of Science in Shipping Business makes its way into the programs offered by Mapúa MCL under the Mapúa-PTC College of Maritime Education and Training (CMET) and its partner company Philippine Transmarine Carriers Inc. (PTC).

Enhancing the existing curricula for up-and-coming cadets, the partnership not only opens doors for individuals seeking a career within the highly competitive shipping industry but also provides an opportunity for a more in-depth, immersive, and flexible learning experience for graduate students.

Mapúa MCL Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Engr. Anthony Hilmer S. Medrano, one of the key figures in this groundbreaking partnership, explained how the institution fulfills its mission of honing globally competitive professionals.

"With this collaboration, MCL aims to further its mission to transform students into globally competitive professionals by generating, sharing, and applying new knowledge, all while exchanging cultures," said Engr. Medrano.

Mapúa-PTC CMET Dean Capt. Armando A. Ternida concurs that the collaboration between the two institutions solidifies and significantly contributes not only to the future of the students vying for a career in the shipping industry but also to its foundation through education here on land.

To have a systematic understanding and to undertake an in-depth training set to master the knowledge of shipping organizations as well as their global environment are what lies at the core of the Master of Science in Shipping Business program executed by the two educational institutions committed to preserving the industry quality of Maritime Careers.

"BCA is proud to announce the partnership, the first of its kind historically, between a Greek and a Filipino academic institution," said Mr. Harris Daskalakis, BCA Executive Director.

"Mapua MCL and Mapúa-PTC CMET have managed to become a focal point for applied education in the field of Shipping Management, while BCA, the oldest Maritime College of Greece, will offer a unique online degree teaching the secrets of Greek Ship Management to the world's most important seafaring nation, the Philippines," he added.

As one of the premier Colleges to offer Maritime Education in Greece, BCA is committed to providing unique learning experiences that 'combines theoretical knowledge with practical application' allowing them to successfully place 9,000 alumni over the past 50 years within its 300+ ship management company partners, each equipped with globally competitive skills and educational foundations.

Upon completion of the program, graduates can look forward to promising career opportunities in Greece provided by the BCA College Career Office.

Through this endeavor, Mapua MCL continues to surpass limits and go beyond its structure in its continued commitment to building globally competitive professionals capable of leading Industry 4.0.



Futures Literacy takes center stage at Northwestern University, Launches the First UNESCO Chair in the Philippines

On October 12, 2023, Northwestern University (NWU) proudly launched the first and only United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) - University Twinning and Networking Scheme (UNITWIN) Chair Program in the Philippines: the UNESCO Chair on Anticipatory Governance and Regenerative Cities. This grant marks a significant milestone in the university's long-standing commitment to Futures literacy and strategic foresight.

The launch event was attended by notable figures, including Dr. Ivan Anthony S. Henares, Secretary General of the Philippine National Commission for UNESCO (UNACOM), Dr. Christine N. Ferrer, Director of the Commission on Higher Education - Region 1 (CHEDRO1), Hon. Cecilia Araneta Marcos, Vice Governor of the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte, Hon. Michael Marcos Keon, Mayor of Laoag City, and representatives from various higher education institutions and organizations across the Philippines.

Dr. Henares emphasized the importance of this new Chair in "shaping a future in which cities are resilient and flourishing." He also said, "Governance

is not merely reactive but anticipatory, and commitments to sustainability are people-oriented," urging collective participation in this transformative journey.

Atty. Ferdinand S. Nicolas, President of Northwestern University, delivered his keynote address highlighting the university's journey toward becoming the country's first UNESCO/UNITWIN Program Chair recipient. Atty. Nicolas underscored the democratic nature of knowledge, a core principle at NWU. "We do have a lot to learn from one another," he stated. "We have all adapted and evolved to deal with novel challenges, each with unique nuances depending on our culture, resources, and environment. It allows us to learn from one another while addressing the needs, dreams, and aspirations of a new generation."

Recognition as a UNESCO Chair signifies NWU's dedication to Futures literacy, anticipatory governance, and regenerative thinking and opens doors for impactful global collaboration. The grant paves the way for partnerships with other UNESCO Chairs, government institutions, and organizations, extending the university's influence beyond its borders.





The Legacy of Futures Thinking at NWU

Northwestern University began its journey in futures thinking in 2012 with the establishment of the Philippine Center for Foresight Education and Innovation Research (NWU-PhilForesight). The center aimed to advance futures thinking awareness in the Philippines, applying strategic foresight, regenerative thinking, and policy-making tools. In 2014, NWU-PhilForesight, in collaboration with UNESCO and the Laoag City Government, organized “Resilient Cities, Brighter Futures,” a forum-workshop on anticipatory thinking and strategic foresight for sustainable city futures. This initiative highlighted the importance of acquiring anticipatory skills to reduce the impact of natural calamities.

The success of this forum led to the establishment of the Asia Pacific Futures Network in 2015, with NWU-PhilForesight as a founding member. The network includes futurists from various countries, including Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea, and Taiwan. NWU also introduced futures thinking as an elective subject for Mass Communication and Political Science students, the first in the Philippines. The university organized various foresight courses and workshops, such as “Transforming Philippine

Cities” for women city leaders and “The Future of Food and Water and the World.”

Northwestern University’s experience with futures thinking was highlighted in 2014 when the institution used Jim Dator’s Four Futures to shape its long-term strategic plan. The principle of plural futures, considering multiple scenarios, guided this process. The four scenarios included continuity, explosive growth, decline, and the outlier. The outlier scenario forced university planners to imagine highly implausible circumstances for the university.

This foresight proved invaluable during the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of that scenario, NWU developed plans anticipating a complete shutdown of the campus. This led to concrete steps in adopting alternative methods of instruction, which, providentially, were set in place in time for the opening of SY 2020-2021.

Atty. Nicolas emphasized the importance of inclusive engagement, creative spaces, and alignment with core values for institutions adopting futures thinking methodologies. These elements, he said, were crucial for creating solutions and fostering ownership and pride in outcomes.

The UNESCO Chair at Northwestern University

The UNESCO Chair on Anticipatory Governance and Regenerative Cities, led by Shermon O. Cruz as the Chairholder and Maria Liza S. Nicolas as the Co-Chairholder, aims to deepen and extend knowledge of anticipatory systems and processes. It focuses on enhancing decision-making capabilities throughout society, with particular emphasis on regenerative futures and governance systems.

Cruz shared plans to lead, pioneer, and amplify efforts to capacitate national and city leaders, stakeholders, and partners. “The point of futures literacy is for us to know and be aware that we must be conscious about it because if we are conscious about it, then it becomes an asset, a resource, a tool that we can actually use,” he said.

At present, the UNESCO Chair organizes several workshops on futures literacy and now implements Futures Thinking as a general Education subject across all its degree programs. The UNESCO Chair has also recently established the UNESCO Frontier Exploration and Research Network (UNESCO FERN), an initiative to help boost and advance futures studies and research in the country, the Asia and the Pacific and the Global South through partnerships with other higher education institutions in the country.

UNESCO FERN will serve as a pioneering hub for futures literacy and futures research exploration and capacity. Currently, this network consists of 10 higher education institutions nationwide. The network

includes the University of Northern Philippines, Pangasinan State University, Biliran Province State University, University of Southeastern Philippines, Mindanao State University - Tawi Tawi College of Technology and Oceanography. The UNESCO FERN aims to support and encourage its partners to build their capabilities to pursue in-depth investigation of emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities that will shape our collective futures.

At the 28th PAPSAS National Conference and Training Workshop held in November 2023, Atty. Nicolas said in his keynote address, “Our values and ideals – excellence, hard work, integrity, compassion, service – these will always guide us towards the best possible future, whatever scenario unfolds for us.” The university’s efforts in futures thinking and the grant of the UNESCO Chair provide a platform for all to create a more productive, regenerative, and inclusive future. 



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MCU GAINS INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

Manila Central University (MCU) has achieved remarkable success in its internationalization efforts, earning high recognition in various global rankings. In the AppliedHE Private University Ranking 2024, MCU secured the 19th position among 80 participating ASEAN universities and achieved the 3rd rank among private Higher Education Institutions in the Philippines. This accomplishment underscores MCU's dedication to excellence in education and its competitive edge in the region.

Further highlighting its commitment to quality, MCU received a 4-Star rating from Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Stars. The QS Stars rating system is a globally respected methodology that assesses universities across key performance areas. MCU's 4-Star rating reflects its exceptional performance in crucial domains such as teaching, employability, internationalization, and facilities.

These accolades align with MCU's overarching purpose: Empower More People Through Innovative Education. By meeting the highest international standards, MCU not only enhances its reputation but also fulfills its mission to equip students with the skills and knowledge they need for global success.

MCU's achievements in international rankings and ratings are a testament to its vision of becoming a leading Filipino university that shares its talents with the world. By fostering an environment of academic excellence and global engagement, MCU continues to prepare its students to make significant contributions on the international stage.

International Partnerships Flourish at 17th AUAP Learning and Sharing Forum on Health in Daegu

The 17th Learning Forum of the Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP), held in Daegu, South Korea from May 9-11, 2024, catalyzed international partnerships.

A key outcome was the establishment of collaborations between Southville International School and College (SISC) and prestigious institutions, Universitas Airlangga (UNAIR) from Indonesia, renowned for its Pharmacy and Business programs, and St. Joseph University (USJ) from Macao, a Catholic university with a rich history of intercultural exchange offering programs in Business and Education.

This collaborative effort between SISC and our new partners, UNAIR and USJ promises to open doors for faculty and student exchange programs, joint research ventures, and the development of international curricula. The partnerships forged at the 17th AUAP conference mark a significant step towards a more interconnected and collaborative global academic landscape. 🌐





K-12 Teachers' Extent of Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence Tools and Its Impact on Managing Time for their Teaching Responsibilities: The Case of San Pablo Colleges

— Dr. Bernardo C. Lunar, *Director, Office of Research, Evaluation and Publication, San Pablo Colleges*

The integration of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in educational settings is transforming traditional teaching methods. This article explores the extent of use of generative AI tools by K-12 teachers at San Pablo Colleges and its impact on managing their teaching responsibilities, with data drawn from a recent survey. A survey was conducted among K-12 teachers at San Pablo Colleges to understand their usage of generative AI tools.

The survey covered various aspects, including the development of lesson plans, creation of interactive activities, automation of administrative tasks, and the perceived impact on instructional time and student learning experiences. The survey included responses from a total of 66 teachers from the Basic Education Department. The respondents were predominantly female with age ranging from 23-32 years old. varied in age, with a mix of genders.

The survey evaluated the extent to which teachers utilize generative AI tools for different teaching-related tasks. Responses were rated on a scale from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree). Key findings include the following: Majority (60%) agreed that generative AI assists in creating interactive and engaging learning activities for students and the same percentage agreed that AI tools assist in assessing student progress and providing timely feedback more efficiently. This same percentage claimed that the use of generative AI tools has been found to significantly impact the management of teaching responsibilities.

Moreover, half of the teachers employed AI tools for automating administrative tasks such as grading and attendance tracking and they felt that AI tools contributed to a more effective use of their instructional time. This same percentage of respondents believed that using generative AI improves the overall learning experience for their students. However, about 40% of respondents agreed that they use generative AI tools to develop lesson plans and teaching materials.

While the benefits are evident, some challenges remain. A segment of teachers expressed the need for more training to effectively use these tools and access to reliable AI tools and infrastructure was a concern for some respondents.

The use of generative AI tools among K-12 teachers at San Pablo Colleges shows a promising trend towards improving educational processes and enhancing the learning experience. However, to maximize the benefits, there is a need for continued professional development and better access to AI resources.

As AI technology evolves, its integration into educational settings is likely to become more profound, offering further opportunities to innovate and streamline teaching responsibilities. 



Fit for Faith: Collaboration and Synergy in Service Learning

— Dr. Raymond M. Anselmo, Chair, Physical Education and Sports Track, UST Senior High School

Service learning provides hands-on experiences and active engagement in addressing community needs. Participants have the opportunity for transformative learning experiences by organizing events that could bring people together and positively impact the community.

Aligned in purpose, the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Senior High School Physical Education and Sports Track partnered with the UST College of Rehabilitation Sciences (CRS) Department of Sports Science last April 11, 2024, as a collaborator for the conduct of the Simbahayan Community Development Service-Learning Project Titled: **“Fit for Faith”** held at the Immaculate Conception Seminary in Brgy. Tabe, Guiguinto Bulacan.



Participants and facilitators during the orientation prior to the conduct of the “Fit for Faith” service-learning project.

From its very title, the ‘Fit for Faith’ service-learning activity stood out, offering a unique opportunity for our learners and all participants to enhance their skills in both Fitness and Faith. This project fosters a relationship based on mutual respect and shared goals and integrates faith into the essence of fitness service learning. As a result, all participants developed a deeper sense of purpose, connection, and compassion, leading to a truly meaningful service-learning experience.

Specifically, this service-learning project enabled the learners and participants to apply, demonstrate, and share various Fitness skills and resources while learning from one another’s perspectives and traditions; through this, participants and facilitators fostered mutual respect, appreciation, and understanding of Faith. Engaging in service-learning activity as such promotes stress relief, relaxation, and overall mental wellness. It develops a sense of purpose and empowerment, realizing one’s ability to make a difference in the community, which may help further increase self-efficacy and confidence.

Undoubtedly, service-learning projects and collaborative activities like the ‘Fit for Faith’ project offer valuable experiences and benefits. They not only address community challenges but also foster personal growth and development for both facilitators and participants. As they work together, empathy, compassion, and a sense of social responsibility is cultivated, leading to a deeper understanding of the community and one’s ability to make a difference. 



The Academic Officials and Academic Staff of the UST CRS Department of Sports Science and UST Senior High School Physical Education and Sports Track Learning Area, collaborators and organizers readily took time for a joint photo opportunity after the successful conduct of the “Fit for Faith” service-learning project.

At UNC, Everybody Makes It!

— Czarina Joy Arevalo

Makakatapos. Magkakatrabaho. Magtatagumpay.

"The University of Nueva Caceres, a 76-year-old educational institution in Naga City, Bicol Region, creates numerous opportunities for Bicolanos. UNC's brand promise of nurturance extends from enrollment to employment for its students. Additionally, for its alumni and benefactors, UNC provides nurturing care from employment to promotion and throughout life-long learning."



Since 2019, the University of Nueva Caceres has set itself apart as a leading Outcome-Based Education (OBE) institution in Bicol, with its primary focus being on ensuring the employability of its graduates. The university aims for UNCean graduates to be highly sought after by employers as a result of their education at a prestigious institution.

Makakatapos. *Don't quit until Graduation Day.*

UNC is a gift from a Bicolano to Bicolanos. Founded by Dr. Jaime Hernandez, UNC welcomes scholars from diverse backgrounds.

The university believes that students thrive better in the academic environment it fosters, prompting it to offer merit-based and need-based scholarship programs to its students.

The merit-based scholarship is awarded to academically inclined and talented students. Meanwhile, the need-based scholarship includes various financial assistance programs to help students who are at financial risk. With a promise of the best student life, from enrollment to employment, UNC continues to serve those who are at a crossroads in life.

Such is the story of Almira Martinez, a 55-year-old student graduating with a Bachelor of Secondary Education from the UNC College of Education. She is set to graduate with honors in June 2024 and is a beneficiary of UNC's support. Despite working as a maintenance personnel in 2011, she was able to return to school due to the encouragement from the administration and the strong support from her work environment.

Her strong grasp of English developed through the Maintenance Office's English Immersive Environment (EIE) program, propelled her to

become one of the university's administrative scholars. Her excellent performance led to her transition from a maintenance personnel role to an administrative assistant position in the UNC Accounting Office in 2019, after eight years of service.

Almira's story is one of hope. She pursued her dream of completing undergraduate studies through UNC's nurturing care. She plans to pay it forward by becoming an educator at UNC. The future looks bright for dreamers like her.



Almira Martinez, UNC Bachelor of Secondary Education student, during her practicum at Tinago National High School in Naga City.

Almira offered advice to those dreaming of completing their studies despite limited resources:

“Never underestimate the power of determination, perseverance, and hard work. Age should never be a barrier to pursuing your educational goals.”

“Seek out scholarships, grants, or financial aid opportunities specifically designed for mature students. Explore flexible study options such as online courses or part-time enrollment to accommodate your existing commitments.”

“Prioritize your time effectively, communicate your aspirations to your support network, and be open to seeking guidance and assistance when needed.”

With regards to the seemingly tough journey ahead, Almira offers the following assurance:

“Remember, your journey may have challenges, but with unwavering determination, perseverance, and hard work, you can overcome obstacles and achieve your dream of earning a degree at any age.”



The Professional Employability Program (PEP) builds on the academic foundation of college seniors, preparing them for industry success and doubling their chances of employment within 90 days of graduation.

Magkakatrabaho, Magtatagumpay:

A continuing testimony to making it!

While marching on Graduation Day to receive her College diploma, Janel Micah also signs her first job contract.

In 2023, UNC achieved 88.54% of its employability target, with graduates being employed within 90 days after graduation. According to the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Vitae, UNC's employability rate of 70% is in line with global standards.

Please remember the following information:

UNC's teaching and learning quality and relevance are rated at 98%, indicating that students are highly confident that their education will help them achieve their career goals. This rating is one of the five dimensions in the IFC Employability Assessment. The percentage is slightly higher than the global average of institutions assessed by IFC Vitae, which is 93%.

In the UNC 360° Assessment Report, it is worth noting that the University of Nueva Caceres has excelled in focusing on employability and aligning employment KPIs with global best practices. This has resulted in producing highly sought-after graduates with excellent student outcomes. The university has successfully enabled its students to be prepared for work and future prospects in line with global employability trends.

Magkakatrabaho at magtatagumpay is UNC's promise to its students, it aims to fulfill this promise by subjecting itself to global assessments like the IFC World Bank. The IFC World Bank organization champions employability and aligns education with labor market needs, thereby driving economic growth and preparing students for the global workforce of tomorrow.

Janel Micah G. Barrios, an administrative scholar and a BS Financial Management graduate of the UNC Class of 2023, secured employment through the Career Center's Employability Program in May 2023. As she marched on Graduation Day in June, she also signed her job

contract with the head office of a Filipino bank as part of the pioneer batch from Bicol, assigned to the sales department.

“My first job was as a Sales Officer at a well-known bank. Career Center and UNC education are the reasons why I got my first job. I was trained and prepared to face the workforce no matter where I will be after graduation. I was prepared for the job interview and the training and was not even left out when I was already working. I was ready to take up any challenges in the workforce,” Janel Micah shared.

After spending 10 months in her first job, she returned to the University as the Project Coordinator of the Center for Adult and Lifelong Learning (CALL), where she vowed to give back to the University that generously helped her with her studies.

Now working as a lifelong learning champion, Janel Micah reveals that she draws inspiration from her experiences: “I always think to myself that if I can finish this work or a specific job, I will be helping all the other people who need to be equipped for their career success. If I do this, I will be presenting the same opportunity that the University has offered me and it will change their life the way it did mine.”



UNC CALL Project Coordinator Janel Micah Barrios during the 2024 Employability Summit.

Lifelong Learning at UNC

Rationalized in April 2023 and formally re-launched in December 2023, the Center for Adult and Lifelong Learning (CALL) is reinvigorated to match the demand of the community for continuing professional education as well as re-learning new skills fitted to the demands of the ever-changing work environment.

The CALL leverages the university’s strength as an English-immersive environment. With English as the language of business, the University explores new opportunities to address regional needs while complementing global trends. CALL’s support is in UNC’s growing networks and linkages from the industries, the government, and its very own alumni.

In June, UNC will commence the Civil Service Exam Review every weekend. This is an eight-session review course offered by CALL and is open to the public. It is designed to provide a refresher for individuals preparing for the annual Civil Service Exam administered by the Civil Service Commission. This course at UNC caters to fresh graduates and professionals, serving as a valuable resource for those seeking career advancement.

The landscape of digital work in the Philippines is constantly changing. We’re seeing a rise in remote work opportunities, the gig economy, and the development of the business process outsourcing (BPO) industry. According to a LinkedIn article on Trends and Predictions: The Future of Work in the Philippines, ‘the world of work is constantly evolving, driven by technological advancements, changing demographics, and shifting economic landscapes.’

The University of Nueva Caceres (UNC), in collaboration with Mapua Malayan Colleges Laguna and Mapua Malayan Colleges Mindanao, will be launching the General Virtual Assistance



Work-ready at UNC. UNCian graduating students at the Employability Summit 2024, participated by 30 employment partners scouting for talents.

Course in partnership with KodeGo, an edutech platform offering digital skills training programs. Additionally, UNC will soon introduce TESDA courses and the English for Lawyers course through the UNC CALL and the Career Center.

From May 22-23, 2024, more than six hundred UNCian graduating students participated in the Employability Summit, which was joined by 30 companies from all over the country. The Career Center's main focus for UNCian students is to prepare them for the workforce and the future.

This is made possible by the Career Center's Employability Program, which is led by Director

Jo-Ann Dancalan. She was awarded as the 2023 Best Job Placement Officer in the Bicol Region by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Bicol for her exemplary performance and significant contribution to implementing the Employment Facilitation Programs.

With the promise of support extending beyond graduation, UNC is preparing every student for success. This is achieved through UNC's core mission of empowering its faculty and staff to provide exceptional care to its students. True to its commitment, the University of Nueva Caceres is working towards creating a better future for all. 



CEBU INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
UNIVERSITY

LEARNING RESOURCE AND ACTIVITY CENTER (LRAC) RECEIVES 2023 OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC/RESEARCH LIBRARY AWARD



The CIT University Library, nestled at the core of the campus and widely regarded as a beacon of knowledge and a cornerstone of academic excellence, has achieved a remarkable feat. The library, also known as the Learning Resource and Activity Center (LRAC), has been honored with the prestigious 2023 Outstanding Academic/Research Library Award by the Philippine Association of Academic/Research Librarians, Inc. (PAARL), besting six other nominated learning institutions from all over Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

The award aims to recognize an academic or research library for its outstanding national contribution to academic or research librarianship and library development in the Philippines. This accolade not only acknowledges the library's exceptional contributions but also shines a light on its unwavering dedication to enriching the educational journey of its students.

This achievement signals a promising direction with the university's pursuit for strategic development in accordance with the nation's thrust of supporting the United Nation's call for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). To mention the 3 Ps: Prosperity, Planet and People are the major triune components of the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Quality Education (UN's Goal #4) ensures inclusive and equitable quality education and promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all. With the award highlighting CIT University's Learning Resource and Activity Center and placing this hub in the national map, the center professes to conscientize and strengthen People towards the achievement of other goals geared for sustainable economic growth and a rejuvenated planet.



ABOUT THE PAARL AWARDS

The Outstanding Academic/Research Library Award, a testament to the highest standards in library service and contribution, is an annual recognition bestowed by PAARL.



Since its establishment in 1973, PAARL has been instrumental in championing the growth and excellence of academic and research libraries in the Philippines.

The award, initiated in 2000 by then-President Fe Angela M. Verzosa, recognizes libraries that make significant national contributions to the academic or research community. The first recipient was the International Rice Research Institute in 2001, setting a precedent for excellence and dedication—a legacy now continued by the CIT University Library.

CONTRIBUTION TO ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH LEARNING

CIT University Library, through its innovative services and resources, has played a pivotal role in the academic and research landscape. The library's commitment to providing comprehensive resources, state-of-the-art facilities, and a conducive learning environment has significantly elevated the research capabilities and academic pursuits of its patrons. From offering extensive digital archives to fostering collaborative learning spaces, the library has been instrumental in shaping a dynamic and interactive academic community.

IMPACT ON CIT UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

The recognition of CIT University Library by PAARL reflects the library's profound impact on the educational fabric of CIT University. The library's efforts have been pivotal in enhancing the quality of learning, offering students access to a world-class repository of knowledge. The success stories of students, often intertwined with the resources and support provided by the library, stand as a testament to its crucial role in their academic and personal growth.

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR CIT UNIVERSITY AHEAD?

Looking forward, CIT University Library remains steadfast in its commitment to academic excellence and innovation. The library's ongoing endeavors to expand its resources, integrate cutting-edge technology, and enhance user experiences are steps towards maintaining its status as a leader in academic and research library services. By integrating initiatives that provide information sources about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), CIT University Library aspires to transform into a hub of knowledge and action. This strategic direction empowers students and the wider community to contribute towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, marking a significant stride towards sustainability and global citizenship. As the hub continues to transcend from being just a library towards becoming a catalyst for people transformation, the university and its stakeholders, and shoulder to shoulder with its partners, shall be geared towards confronting the many challenges of nation building.

CELEBRATE WITH US!

Join the rest of the CIT University community as we heartily congratulate the Learning Resource and Activity Center on receiving this distinguished honor from PAARL. This award is indeed a recognition of past achievements and a beacon guiding the library towards a future filled with continued success, innovation, and a deeper commitment to global sustainability goals, forever enriching the lives of those who walk through its doors.

As we look to the future, the CIT University Library's dedication to excellence, innovation, and its emerging focus on sustainability highlights the enriching educational environment that defines CIT University. For those pondering their academic paths, the library's achievements and resources exemplify the dynamic and nurturing community that CIT University prides itself on. We warmly encourage prospective students to discover the myriad opportunities that await at CIT University, where the pursuit of academic excellence and a commitment to sustainable development is a journey woven into every aspect of our campus life.



FEATI University Produces another Topnotcher in the Aeronautical Engineering Board Exam



Samad Tongco Sultan topped the December 2023 Aeronautical Engineer licensure examination given by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC). Garnering a rating of 92.05 percent, the Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Engineering graduate and Summa Cum Laude of FEATI University Class of 2023 bested the 418 who successfully hurdled the board exams out of 971 (43.05%) examinees.

Samad joins the roster of FEATINIAN board topnotchers giving pride and honor to the University in the last 77 years. FEATI has consistently produced topnotchers and high placers in the Aeronautical Engineering board examination for many years. Most recently, in 2021, Jharie Mae Soriano, a 2020 BS Aeronautical Engineering graduate, secured the top spot. In 2013, the PRC recognized the University as a Top Performing School in Aeronautical Engineering for its exceptional passing rate.

Samad, a 22-year-old young achiever was a consistent academic scholar and a recipient of The FEATInean Association of Toronto (TFAT) Excellence in Engineering Award. He completed the 420-hour Airframe and Powerplant Training Course at Aviation Technician Advanced+, PTC Aviation Training Center with a rating of 90.47% making him Rank 1 in his batch.

According to Samad, the board exam measures the performance of an aeronautical engineering graduate in terms of understanding both simple and complex theories and principles of aeronautics. He believes that a good educational foundation directly translates to remarkable performance in the board exam. Specialized subjects that provide hands-on experiences in the Aero laboratory and work immersion in an aviation company helped broaden his perspective

during his Senior High School at FEATI University under the STEM - Aero Engineering program and solidified his passion for aviation. Continuing on to college at the same university and navigating through a challenging curriculum, he graduated with flying colors in 2023 with a bachelor's degree.

Samad credits his success in acing the boards to FEATI's research-based education, industry-experienced faculty, and top-notch facilities. His diligent preparation made the 6-month review at FEATI Aero Board Review Center a recap of past lessons and coverage of additional topics.

Here are some helpful tips for aspiring board topnotchers that Samad believes worked for him:

1. Develop a review schedule with accompanying periodic goals and objectives.
2. Enroll in a reputable review center and gather as many resources as possible.
3. Stick to and learn to relate basic principles and concepts.
4. Focus on familiarizing yourself rather than memorization through in-depth review method and practice.
5. Reading and derivation are key components of an effective review.
6. Master the use of a calculator prescribed by the Board.
7. Prioritize all subjects but emphasize subjects with higher weight contribution.
8. Maintain a healthy mind and body through a proper lifestyle.
9. Aim for perfection and raise the bar to a higher standard.

FEATI has an impressive list of notable alumni who have excelled in their respective careers, making their marks in both public and private sectors. Samad is undoubtedly destined to continue this tradition as a trailblazer. His achievements signify his commitment and dedication to making a substantial contribution to the dynamic field of aeronautical engineering in the country. He plans to gain industry experience by working with airlines, approved aircraft maintenance organizations, and other sectors in aviation. Additionally, he aims to share his knowledge by teaching aeronautical programs and conducting board refreshers.

His long-term goal is to work in the aircraft design and manufacturing field, which will involve completing post-graduate programs and training both locally and internationally. Additionally, he is interested in approaching his career with a focus on business, both within and outside of the aviation industry.

Samad is now a full-fledged aeronautical engineer and more than ready to join the ranks of esteemed FEATI graduates who have achieved great things in the aviation industry and made a real impact in their field. 

Poignant Top 1

— Dr. Ronnie V. Amorado, University of Mindanao

“Life at best is bittersweet.”

—so proclaimed by the American book artist, Jack Kirby.

Poverty is a very compelling motivator. This is the poignant story of this year’s latest topnotcher, Engr. Rey M. Arcabal. He landed Top 1 in the 2024 Mechanical Engineering licensure examination, besting among the 6,770 examinees. With only 4,458 who passed, Rey came home with an astonishing 93.45% passing rate. This is the first for the Mechanical Engineering (ME) program and the first for the College of Engineering Education (CEE) of the University of Mindanao (UM). The UM batch of examinees also performed very well. 42 out of 44 (95.45%) passed, giving the university an excellent lead above the 65.45% national passing rate. This is the highest for the ME and the CEE.

In his testimony during his Convocation program, where Engr. Arcabal was rewarded his million peso incentive, he shared:

“This achievement has not only changed the course of my life but has also offered me and my family an opportunity to break free from the chains of poverty that once gripped me. Growing up in poverty was not easy. My family struggled to make ends meet, to put food on the table, and keep a roof over our heads. I watched my parents work long hours at multiple jobs just to pay the bills, and I knew that I had to do something to break the cycle of poverty that had trapped us for generations.

I made a vow to myself that I would do whatever it took to escape poverty and create a better life for myself, my family, my siblings, and my future family. I refused to let my circumstances define me, and instead, I used them as motivation to push myself further. There were times when I felt like giving up, when the weight of poverty seemed too heavy to bear. But I reminded myself that I was stronger than my circumstances, and that I had the power to change my life for the better.”

A central theme in Rey’s journey and success is overcoming poverty. Despite the challenges poverty brings, the university’s education empowers students to face and conquer these obstacles in order to succeed. While poverty typically hinders and discourages, this is not

true for students at the University of Mindanao.

Rey’s story is similar to that of Honey Jay D. Bacus, who was the first to achieve the top rank in 2014 under the Social Work program of the College of Arts & Sciences. Honey also



had a story of struggle, and her success in the licensure examination served as an inspiring achievement.. Her Million-peso incentive was used to buy a house for her family who was living in a squatters area.

Rey's father works hard as a farmer to provide for his family while his mother takes on occasional odd jobs to supplement their income. Born on September 30, 1999, Rey received free public basic education on Samal Island where his family resides. He attended Caliclic Elementary School and graduated in 2012. After that, he went to Mambago National High School and completed his studies in 2018.

Rey then applied for a DOST collegiate scholarship and enrolled at the University of Mindanao, where he completed his degree in 2023. The DOST scholarship played a crucial role in covering his tuition and allowances throughout his college education. Rey is the third of four siblings, all of whom are male, with the youngest being the only girl, currently in Senior High School. Rey's journey is a testament to his perseverance and hard work.

The stories of other Top 1s and topnotchers in UM are worthy of emulation by other students. They serve as continuing inspiration for the university's teachers.

ME's Program Head, Engr. Cresencio 'The Enciong' P. Genobiagon, Jr., was very evocative in his closing remarks during the Convocation:

"We all stand in the presence of diamonds in the rough... [these] individuals who have proven that brilliance often emerges from the crucible of perseverance... They have shown us that the pursuit of greatness requires not just talent, but an unyielding spirit that refuses to be broken by challenges."

The university's educational philosophy of polishing diamonds in the rough is made alive and more meaningful by the stories of these topnotchers. Excellence is not just an intellectual virtue; excellence likewise possesses economic value not only because of the incentives and the reputation of the school, but more importantly because of the opportunities created by the prestige of being a topnotcher.

Being a topnotcher brings with it the virtues of humility, perseverance, and the doggedness to overcome difficulties in life. These are the traits that land UM students in good jobs regardless if they come from poverty.

Education, indeed, is a great equalizer in society, as advocated in the works of several novelists and statesmen, Horace Mann, Michael Welch, Jimmy Smits, Dave Heineman. Even the former UN Secretary General, Koffi Annan declared that as **"education is the great equalizer of our time, it gives hope to the hopeless and creates chances for those without."** 



UST-CTHM Students, Academic Staff take on the GRM Challenge 2024

— Assoc. Prof. Evangeline E. Timbang, Ph.D., CHE

The University of Santo Tomas College of Tourism and Hospitality Management (CTHM) academic staff and students received accolades in the recent Grand Revenue Management Challenge [GRM] 2024.

The International Center of Excellence in Tourism and Hospitality Education in partnership with Russell Partnership Technology and CoStar SHARE Center launched the prestigious 4th Global Competition in January 2024 with 67 students and faculty participants from various educational institutions worldwide.

The innovative competition aims to provide opportunities to develop global partnerships via knowledge sharing.

An opportunity for collaboration, each team comprises 4-6 students from three or more institutions tasked to manage virtual hotel sales and revenue in a simulated setting using the Russel Technology management program.

Dennis Lemsic, academic staff of CTHM was the Staff Adviser of the champion team with student winners namely, Kwok Wai Lee of Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School at Torrens University Australia; Reign Aizle Angeles of Far Eastern

University in the Philippines; and Thipsuda Saimai of Dusit Thani College in Thailand.

Ghaylle Jermain Enguero from CTHM, together with Flavia Wolfensberger of EHL Swiss School of Tourism and Hospitality in Switzerland won 2nd Place.

The 3rd Place was awarded to the team of CTHM student Marie Alleine Quintos, together with her teammates Jotame Driu of The University of the South Pacific – Pacific TAFE Fiji and Learah Grace Magboo of Far Eastern University, Philippines.

Leonard Cseh from the University of Derby, United Kingdom was their adviser.

First-place winners shall receive a \$AUD1500 bursary towards study offered by any member of THE-ICE, and a free registration for the Certification in Hotel Industry Analytics (CHIA) or the Certification in Advanced Hospitality and Tourism Industry Analytics (CAHTA).

Meanwhile, those who won second and third place shall receive free registration for the Certification in Hotel Industry Analytics (CHIA) or the Certification in Advanced Hospitality and Tourism Industry Analytics (CAHTA) and free registration on the Hospitality Business Acumen (HBA) Certificate program respectively.

The University of Santo Tomas has been an active participant in the GRM Challenge and has consistently produced winners with collaborating teams since 2021. 

Elevating Bedan Education

TÜV Rheinland Recertifies SBU 6 Years in a Row

— Benjamin B. Sonajo, Jr.

TÜV Rheinland, a global company conducting testing and certification services, recertifies San Beda University anew.

Since its first certification in 2017, the university has consistently met standards for 9001: 2015 quality management systems.

ISO 9001:2015 is a worldwide standard that sets requirements for a strong Quality Management System detailing specific processes, procedures, and activities that organizations must create, implement, maintain, and improve to manage to make products or deliver services successfully.

“We received the formal notice of recertification in January 2024,” said Dr. Christian Bryan S. Bustamante, the university’s Governance and Quality Assurance

Director, and TÜV Rheinland DPO certifier.

“Everyone in the university is delighted that the external audit conducted by TÜV Rheinland from September 27 to 28, 2023 yielded positive results,” he added.

The recertification process involves establishing a robust quality management system that addresses various facets of education, from curriculum development to student services and administrative workflows.

Emerging from this process is the cultivation of the university’s passion for continuous improvement resulting in the establishment of validated processes for designing and updating curricula, standardizing assessment steps ensuring fairness, consistency, accuracy, and attainment of target competencies and skills.

Administrative processes, the backbone of any university, are also streamlined! through the implementation of ISO 1901:2015, giving way to improved efficiency, reduced errors, and enhanced overall administrative effectiveness. 

UA&P inks Five International Agreements

– UA&P Public and International Affairs Office

The University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) has secured five international agreements in the first quarter of 2024, now calling as its partners the following universities: Yeonsung University, South Korea; Worcester College, University of Oxford, United Kingdom; INTI International University, Malaysia; ISEN University Center, University of Murcia, Spain; and Queensland University of Technology, Australia.

As a product of the said agreements, 22 students from Yeonsung University came to UA&P for an English Immersion Program (EIP) from February 5 to 22. EIP consisted of lectures from UA&P professors and one-on-one verbal practice with UA&P students. Moreover, on July 11-31, 10 UA&P students will join the Oxford Certificate Programme hosted by Worcester College, University of Oxford, United Kingdom.



The Yeonsung University students with the staff of the Public and International Affairs Office of UA&P and some UA&P students (in white sash).

Head of UA&P CDE Center selected for Global Leaders for Young Children Program

– UA&P Corporate Communications Office

University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) Child Development and Education (CDE) Center of the School of Education and Human Development (SED) Director Dr. Lexie Estacio has been selected as a participant in the 2024-2025 cohort of the Global Leaders for Young Children Program, a project of World Forum Foundation.

The Global Leaders for Young Children Program aims to improve life chances for young children by developing early childhood leaders who can become effective change agents and advocates for quality early childhood development in their home countries and regions.

The program is one of the events offered by the World Forum Foundation, a US-based non-profit organization that focuses on the well-being of the world's children.

SDO-Bulacan recognizes UA&P-IST

– UA&P-IST

The University of Asia and the Pacific – Department of Information Science and Technology (UA&P-IST) has been awarded as one of the select Major Private Education Partners of the Schools Division of Bulacan (SDO-Bulacan).

The recognition ceremony, held on December 4, 2023, in Bustos, Bulacan, aimed to bring together key stakeholders, both internal and external, including educators, administrators, policymakers, industry leaders, parents, and community members, to engage in productive dialogues and foster meaningful partnerships.

The Department of Information Science and Technology of the UA&P School of Sciences and Engineering has four public school partners since 2019 from different municipalities in Bulacan: Virginia Ramirez-Cruz National High School (Pandi, Bulacan), F. Mendoza Memorial Elementary School (Calumpit, Bulacan), Jose J. Mariano Memorial High School (Plaridel, Bulacan), and Frances Elementary School (Calumpit, Bulacan).

To learn more about the IST Extension Program, please email IST at ist@uap.asia.



Dr. Estacio joins an elite group of early childhood leaders and practitioners from around the world to engage in learning, networking, and advocacy.

The program began in March 2024, with the first face-to-face meeting at the World Forum in Vancouver, Canada on April 15-20.



Baliuag University's Multifaceted Excellence: Student Achievements, AI Seminars, and Journalistic Success

Student to Represent Philippines in Microsoft Office Specialist World Championship

A significant achievement for Baliuag University (BU) and Innovative Training Works: Mr. Jei-em-ar Roxas II, a student from Baliuag University, has earned a prestigious spot to compete in the Certiport Microsoft Office Specialist World Championship in Excel 2019.

The global competition, hosted by Certiport, a Pearson Vue Business, assesses students' proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Scheduled to take place in Anaheim, California, United States of America (USA), from July 28 to 31, 2024, this global competition signifies a significant achievement for Baliuag University.

Jei-em-ar's selection highlights Baliuag University's commitment to promoting innovation and excellence among its students in today's digital era, embodying BU's guiding principle, #AlagangBU.

As he prepares to represent Baliuag University and the country on the global stage, Jei-em-ar carries with him the collective aspirations of his peers, educators, and fellow Filipinos, aiming to showcase the best of Baliuag University and the Philippines.



Baliuag University Advances AI Education with Echo Seminars

Baliuag University (BU) continues its commitment to staying at the forefront of educational trends by hosting echo seminar sessions focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Through its Center for Academic Development and Assessment (CADA), BU organized a seminar on AI last April 11, 2024, providing administrators, faculty, and staff with valuable insights into this rapidly evolving field. Throughout the school year, administrators and faculty members had the opportunity to attend six different AI sessions.

These seminars and workshops were:

1. Rex Education's Demystifying ChatGPT for Educators - held on November 23, 2023
2. Opportunities Surrounding Generative AI in Education - held on February 23, 2024
3. OpenGov Breakfast Insight: GenAI Powered Security Solutions for Educational Institutions - held on February 24, 2024
4. 12th SEAMEO-University of Tsukuba Symposium: Challenges and Ways Forward in the Era of Generative AI with Reflection of 25 Years of 21st Century Education - conducted from February 27-28, 2024
5. PACU seminar on Harnessing AI Potential: A Policy Writeshop on Acceptable Use in Education - held on March 2, 2024
6. UST's AI Summit 2024: Advancing AI Capability, Promoting AI Safety - held from March 18-19, 2024

Representatives from these sessions, Ms. Katrine Ames Gito, Assistant Principal of the Basic Education Department, Dr. Ramadan de Jesus, Principal of the Senior High School Department, Ms. Jasmienne Domingo, Director of the Center for Instructional Technology Services, Dean Clarissa Vicente of the College of Information Technology Education, Dr. Alvin Alma Jose, Principal of the Basic Education Department and Dean of the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) and Ms. Reina Flor Castro, Chief Librarian and Associate Director of the University Publications Office, shared key

takeaways, emphasizing the significance of maximizing AI tools for educational purposes, safeguarding against cyber threats, AI's potential uses in teaching and learning as well as assessment and grading and maintaining ethical standards in AI usage.

Dr. Maria Alicia Orosa, Vice President for Quality Management, Research, and Innovation (VPQuMRI), concluded the seminar with a presentation on BU's Policy on Acceptable and Responsible Use of AI, reflecting the institution's proactive approach to integrating AI responsibly into its academic endeavors.

Baliuag University Journalists Shine at EDDIS II Press Conference

Excellence in journalism takes center stage at Baliuag University as its journalists clinch numerous accolades at the Secondary School EDDIS Level Press Conference held on March 11, 2024, at Guiguinto National Vocational High School. Upholding one of Baliuag University's core values—excellence—and with an impressive total of 16 winning spots, BU emerged as the Top 1 Performing School in Baliuag City during the event. Across various categories, BU journalists showcased their exceptional skills, securing top honors in editorial writing, column writing, feature writing, and more.

Students across the schools in Bulacan EDDIS II joined the press conference, and the young journalists from the Basic Education and Senior High School departments of Baliuag University showed exemplary skills in various journalism categories.

Russell John Atienza (Editorial Writing), Raena Deign Sta. Ana and Drake Dimitri Dy (Column Writing) secured the podium's highest step as they all clinched 1st Place in their respective categories. Continuing the winning streak, Justine Chase Catoto (2nd Place Feature Writing), Gian Reine Miranda (2nd Place, Editorial Writing), Matti

Angelo Delos Reyes (3rd Place, Column Writing), and Lizette Adelice Fernando (3rd Place, Copyreading and Headline Writing) also earned a spot in the podium.

In addition, Rianne Angela Lazaro (Photojournalism) and Alice Chernel Celeste (Feature Writing) both clinched 5th place in the English categories. Meanwhile, journalists who joined the Filipino categories also made it to the Top 10. Kloe Sophia Canlas won 4th Place in Pagsulat ng Pangulong Tudling, Aleia Grace Ramirez won 5th Place in Pagsulat ng Lathalain, and Anabella Torres obtained 7th Place in Paglalarawang Tudling. Adding to the list are Princess Syrene Beltran (Pagsulat ng Kolum) and Christian Daniel Verde (Pagsulat ng Agham at Teknolohiya), who were both 8th placers. Completing the roster of winners is Victoria Mareiz Carillo, 10th place in Pagwawasto at Pag-uulo ng Sipi.

Elementary journalists also placed in their respective categories, including Princess Alianna Caniedo (5th Place, Photojournalism), Alfritz Charles Pleno (7th Place, Pagkuha ng Larawang Pampahayagan), and Iyanna Erin Baroma (9th Place, Copyreading and Headline Writing).

Supported by dedicated coaches, Ms. Esther Jedidiah Meneses, Ms. Andrea Valino, Mr. Nelson Santillan, Ms. Michelle Santos, Ms. Erika De Asis, and Ms. Melanie Santos as the Head of the Delegation, these young journalists demonstrated their prowess in both English and Filipino categories, affirming BU's commitment to nurturing journalistic talent.

Moreover, Baliuag University's school paper advisers, Ms. Erika De Asis and Ms. Esther Jedidiah Meneses, received recognition for their invaluable contributions to journalism education. They were awarded 2nd and 5th Top Performing School Paper Advisers respectively, further solidifying BU's reputation as a hub for journalistic excellence. Indeed, the spirit of journalism is alive at Baliuag University. 





Dynasty and Redemption: National U's Excellence marks History

Sports play a huge role in shaping the Philippine Culture. In 1924, the National University joined the representatives of various universities who urged to form an athletic organization to establish collegiate sports and set general athletic policies. This led to the founding of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) back in 1938, in which the National U was one of the four founders.

Over the years, the National U has been honing athletes by continuously developing its academic and sports systems. In fact, in 2019, NU has built the “premier all-around sports training facility in the south of Metro Manila” — the INSPIRE Sports Academy, which houses a ‘wide array of premium facilities and equipment’ to help train world-class athletes who bring pride not just to their universities, but also to the country. In addition to this, NU also pioneered the CHED Tertiary Coaching Certification Program last year aimed at developing high-caliber coaches through comprehensive and continuous education; hence, producing skillful athletes.

This was proven by the recent Golden Double victory of the National U Men’s and Women’s Volleyball Teams. The Lady Bulldogs complemented the rare four-peat championship of the Men’s Volleyball Team in front of 22,515 spectators after both squads

swept the Final Round against the same university opponent. The Bulldogs are only the second team to achieve such a record following Seasons 70-73, while the rare Golden Double was last seized in Season 77.

Prior to this, the Lady Bulldogs have quenched a 65-year title drought in UAAP Season 84 courtesy of NU’s homegrown athletes — the UAAP Season 82 High School Champion, NUNS Girls’ Volleyball Team.





Meanwhile as of writing, UAAP Season 86 Men's Best Setter, and Finals MVP Joshua Retamar, together with League's 2nd Best Outside Hitter Nico Almendras, Rookie of the Year Jade Disquitado, with former and current Bulldogs Kim Malabunga, Bryan Bagunas, Joseph Bello, Rwenzmel Taguibolos, and Leo Ordiales are set to represent the Philippines for the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) Challenge Cup and 2025 International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) Volleyball Men's World Championship.

For decades, the NU Bulldogs have brought pride and honor to the institution and the country — from setting Araneta's all-time basketball attendance record of 25,138 from the UAAP Season 77 Championship to the Women's Basketball Team's historic 108-game win streak to the much-awaited championship return of the Baseball Team to producing golden double champions and contributing to the growth of our national athletes, and World's #1 Volleyball Player, NU alumna Jaja Santiago.

Truly, National U stays true to its commitment to providing not just an 'Education that Works,' but also a system that works, reflected by the globally recognized student-athletes it produces.

The National University Philippines vouches to strive harder in developing its programs to mold its students to become excellent and remarkable professionals as well as provide a platform for more aspiring athletes. 



From Grassroots to Greatness: The Rise of Negros Island in Philippine Sports

In the realm of sports, talent knows no boundaries. It's a realm where dedication, skill, and opportunity intersect to produce champions.

For a nation like the Philippines, with a rich cultural heritage and a deep passion for sports, nurturing talent from the grassroots level holds the key to unlocking its full potential on the international stage. In this article, we delve into the significance of sports development programs targeted at the grassroots, exploring how they serve as the cornerstone for fostering a robust pipeline of athletic excellence.

From the playgrounds to the podiums, these initiatives not only cultivate raw talent but also lay the foundation for a future generation of Filipino sports standouts poised to shine on the world stage, including prestigious events like the Olympics.

Commissioner Edward Hayco of the Philippine Sports Commission emphasized that sports talents are discovered at the grassroots level. This was the reason why Commissioner Hayco commended STI West Negros University for paving the way for the creation of the Negros Island Private Schools Athletic Association (NIPRISAA), which had its maiden run on June 25.

During his speech at the Sports Summit, before a crowd composed of school heads, coaches, and tournament managers at the National Grassroots Sports Summit - Negros Island Leg in STIWNU's new School of Basic Education Building, the PSC Commissioner underscored that Hidilyn Diaz, the Filipino athlete who gave the country its first Olympic gold medal, came from the grassroots.

"Zamboanga was able to secure the first Olympic gold medal. Zamboanga. Why not Metro Manila? All the facilities are there. Because there was an ordinary sports leader who believed he could achieve something extraordinary," said Hayco.

He went on to commend the host university's

Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer Dr. Ryan Mark Molina, who is also the concurrent second Vice President of the National PRISAA, for braving the odds to realize his dream of bringing together athletes, school heads, coaches, and local government units from both Oriental and Occidental Negros to establish the NIPRISAA.



"This is historic! What unfolded today, at the opening of the 1st NIPRISAA here in Bacolod City, is historic!" said Hayco during his keynote speech on the opening of the five-day 1st NIPRISAA.

Aside from STIWNU, the University of St. La Salle Bacolod and the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos played host to 23 sports events that ended on June 30. USLS Bacolod emerged first NIPRISAA Champion having won the most number of golds and medals, 93 and 209 respectively. Twelve colleges and universities compose the pioneering members of the newly established athletic association.

The pioneering members are the University of Negros Occidental – Recoletos (UNO-R), University of St. La Salle (USLS) Bacolod, STI West Negros University (STIWNU), La Consolacion College Bacolod (LCC), Colegio San Agustin Bacolod (CSA-B), Southland College Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental, Foundation University Dumaguete,



Negros Oriental John B. Lacson Colleges Foundation, North Negros College, VMA Global College, Colegio de Santa Catalina de Alejandria (COSCA) Dumaguete, and Colegio de Sta. Ana de Victorias in Negros Occidental.

Meanwhile, Bacolod Lone District Rep. Greg Gasataya commended Dr. Molina, and the 12 schools for spearheading the social crusade in strengthening the sports program at the grassroots level and putting Negros Island on the national sports map.

“Education is not limited to the four corners of our classrooms. Often, the experiences we never forget are on the basketball court, volleyball court, swimming pool, and other sports areas. So, PRISAA is not new to Bacolod, to Negros, because I think, more than 20 years ago, we also hosted the National PRISAA. But right now, this is a very memorable and historic event because finally, we have the Negros Island PRISAA. I would like to commend everyone for uniting all the private schools in Negros Island to bring sports competition between and among schools to a higher level,” said Rep. Gasataya, who assured NIPRISAA of the Congressional Office’s full support in all its endeavors.

For his part, Molina said he saw the potential of Negros Island athletes in making a name in the national and international sports scenes, which is why he pushed the idea and sought the blessing of the National PRISAA to allow all colleges and universities in Negros Island to form one team that will place the island’s flag on the national and international maps.

“In 2017, when there was an executive order establishing the Negros Island Region, we in Negros did not have any team to represent NIR except NOPSSCEA. So, when we went to the national finals, I was the chairman of the Committee on Sports of

NOPSSCEA at that time. The Executive Director the late Mr. Dante Albao, told me that we would only send those who were sure to win to Iba, Zambales, due to budgetary constraints. We didn’t have enough budget at that time, but we ended up number 3 among the 17 regions in the entire country,” he shared.

He continued, saying that as the second VP of the National PRISAA, he told the national board to allow us to put up our own team in Negros Island.

“We are now gathered as a team to show the entire Philippines that Negros Island is one of the best teams that PRISAA will ever have. We want to come up with a brand new grassroots sports development program for the entire Negros Island. We want our association to be an association that helps us build one another and to show the entire country that we are one team as we enter the National PRISAA,” he added.

The island’s team will now start preparing for the fielding of athletes to the upcoming National PRISAA Games in Legazpi City, Albay, on July 20-26.

As the inaugural NIPRISAA drew to a close, it left a legacy of unity, dedication, and athletic excellence. Through the collaborative efforts of educational institutions, sports organizations, and local government units, Negros Island has taken a bold step towards realizing its potential as a powerhouse in Philippine sports.

As the island’s athletes prepare to compete in the National PRISAA Games and beyond, they carry with them the hopes and dreams of a community united in its passion for sports. The journey from grassroots to greatness has only just begun, and Negros Island stands poised to make its mark on the national and international sports stage.



SPC Grade Schoolers clinch 3rd Spot at GIZMOS Nationals

— Angelique D. Perez

In a remarkable display of talent and dedication, five elementary pupils of San Pablo Colleges (SPC) have secured 3rd place at the prestigious GIZMOS Global STEM Competition - National Level, in Category 1: Elementary (K-5).



The team, composed of Iyah Vielle G. Florentino, Grade 3, Maxine Raine A. Tayad, Grade 4, and Grade 5 pupils Jhonard Clint L. Peñana, Kim Harvey Dinglasan, and Avielle Yvonne N. Carandang, guided by their coach James Ulrich A. Endrenal, bested over 100 competing schools nationwide, announced Apr. 29.

The GIZMOS Global STEM Competition challenges student teams to create a STEM project based on their chosen Gizmo and present their findings through a video presentation. Gizmos are interactive math and science labs and simulations designed for grades 3-12, enabling participation in numerous interactive experiments that foster deep conceptual understanding in STEM fields.

The SPC budding scientists' enthusiasm for animals and adventure, along with their commitment to honoring the memory of Mali, the Philippines' lone elephant, fueled their initiative, which they named "Wild Wanderers" to reflect their journey. This endeavor addressed a real-world issue faced by farmers in Africa: protecting crops from elephants without harming the animals.

Acting as wildlife biologists, the students explored the relationships between elephants, humans, and bees. They hypothesized that incorporating beehives into agricultural practices could deter elephants while supporting pollinators and promoting sustainable farming. Their work illustrated the concept of mutualism and its practical applications in agriculture.

Preparing for the event was a rigorous process. The team attended an orientation by Emergent Concept Inc. Program Coach Gemo Magsino to learn how to use the GIZMOS application effectively. They invested countless hours in brainstorming, scripting, shooting, and editing their work, ensuring that every detail was meticulously planned and executed.

Despite facing challenges such as coordinating schedules and mastering new technology, their determination and passion shone through.

In an interview, Endrenal highlighted the key factors behind this achievement such as genuine enjoyment of the task, perseverance, adaptability, and excellent communication skills. Zeal and competitive spirit were also evident in their compelling and polished final product.

The positive environment fueled the team's success, demonstrating the strength of the SPC community in fostering emerging talents. Support from parents, school staff, and the broader community played a significant role in their performance and morale.

SPC Grade School Principal Prof. Marierose P. Saldua's encouragement and the parents' assistance with costumes and constant motivation were invaluable.

Participating in the GIZMOS Global STEM Competition has profoundly benefited the participants and their department, providing an outstanding start to exposing them to this type of challenge, and helping them gain confidence and experience in a competitive setting.

Moreover, it broadened their knowledge of science, deepening their understanding and appreciation of the subject, inspiring them to pursue further interests in STEM fields, and preparing them for future academic challenges.

Looking ahead, Sir Endrenal hopes for the elementary pupils to clinch the gold medal in the next competition and represent the Philippines internationally. He plans to build on their experience, refine their strategies, and explore new projects and competitions to further the students' talents in STEM.

Ultimately, this triumph speaks volumes about the SPC community's commitment to nurturing and championing minds in STEM.

Congratulations to the budding SPCian scientists and Sir Endrenal for their remarkable accomplishment! Let your spirit remain alive and thriving! 🌟

MC Looks Forward to its Centenary

— Elisa F. De Jesus

An institution that once started off reaching and celebrating little breakthroughs is now about to make history as it gears up to set foot on its 100th Founding Anniversary.

Meycauayan College (MC), formerly known as Meycauayan Institute (MI), marked its 99th Founding Anniversary in February.

The week-long celebration was filled with fun and thrill as MCians from the Child Study Center, Elementary, High School, and College Departments made ready for the booths to be enjoyed by everyone.

Welcoming the 99th Founding Celebration opened up to much excitement as everyone awaits the next which surely will be a big and grand one.

Dating back to 1925, MC started its operation and goal to be an avenue where learners would achieve holistic growth.

It started out to be a small community accompanied by big goals until continued years of its existence as an effective learning institution made it dream

bigger — and that is to be bigger as it is right now.

In every functioning institution, the struggles in between are inevitable but these fueled MC's fire to stand still amid crises that made them adaptable enough to sustain its long-term purpose.

For decades, MC has been a humble and at the same time humbling home for a lot of people — learners, mentors and non-teaching personnel — who are now making their names and living up to the teachings and principles brought to them by the institution.

The lives that MC has woven for the past years of its dedicated service are proof of what the institution has been serving upon its existence.

Marching toward this phenomenal milestone, MC betters itself over time in doing its part — honing MCians to be well-rounded and constructive citizens who continually uphold the institution's core values and attributes.

MCians indeed come and go but they will keep coming back to be part of stately celebrations like this.

MC's centennial celebration will be held in February 2025. 





Laguna College Celebrates 100 Years of Excellence

Laguna College (LC), an institution renowned for its dedication to patriotism, knowledge, and freedom, celebrated its centennial anniversary with a yearlong series of events, culminating on December 30, 2023.

This momentous occasion highlighted the college's century-long commitment to education, community, and excellence.

For the past one hundred years, the people of Laguna College's collective journey has been marked by resilience, growth, and unwavering commitment. As LC reflects on

the achievements and challenges that have shaped the LC Family, Laguna College embraces the rich tapestry of history with gratitude and pride.

The centennial celebrations began with the unveiling of the Centennial Logo in December 2022. This emblem, carefully designed to encapsulate the spirit and legacy of Laguna College, represents a hundred years of academic excellence and community service. The logo serves as a symbol of the institution's rich history and its vision for the future, marking the beginning of a year filled with commemorative events.



In January 2023, the college organized a grand motorcade to kick off the centennial celebrations. Alumni, students, faculty, and staff participated in this vibrant procession, which showcased the unity and pride of the Laguna College community.

Meanwhile, in February 2023, the Centennial highlight was the Centennial JS Promenade, a glamorous evening that brought together junior and senior students in celebration.

The prom, themed "A Century of Dreams," featured elegant attire, lively dancing, and a sense of nostalgia for alumni

who reminisced about their prom nights.

In March, Batch 1984 sponsored "Zumba for a Cause" gathering the campus community for health and wellness.

Further, LC High School Batch 1987 sponsored April's "Fun Run," an activity that underscored health and camaraderie. Runners of all ages and abilities participated in the race, enjoying the scenic routes around Sampaloc Lake.

In May 2023, "Dinner for a Cause," a fundraising event that brought together alumni, faculty, and supporters of



Laguna College, transpired. The evening was filled with heartfelt speeches, delectable food, and entertainment, all in support of the scholarship project.

This dinner highlighted the generous spirit of the Laguna College community and its dedication to supporting future generations.

Subsequently, a bloodletting initiative was organized by Batch 1981 in June 2023. This blood donation drive demonstrated their commitment to saving lives and supporting healthcare. The bloodletting event was a resounding success, with many volunteers stepping forward to help save lives.

In July 2023, a Centennial Graduation ceremony was held. This event celebrated the academic achievements of the graduating class while also honoring the institution's 100-year history.

Come August 2023, the Laguna College community engaged in a tree planting activity to commemorate the centennial year. The Banaba Centennial Tree Planting event was participated by students, faculty, and alumni.

As the Yuletide begins, The Glee Club showcased the musical talents of Laguna College students in a concert. Featuring a repertoire of classical and contemporary songs, the concert was a celebration of artistic expression and cultural heritage.

In October, the Prince and Princess pageant for elementary pupils was held. Further, the Centennial King and Queen happened the following month.

This regal event celebrated elegance, poise, and the LC community involvement. Contestants from various programs competed, displaying their talents and charisma.

Culmination

Reaching the last month of the year, the Culminating Events unfolded. The festive season began with the lighting of the Christmas tree- a beacon of hope and joy.

This event brought the college community together to celebrate the holiday spirit and reflect on the blessings of the past year. The tree lighting was a festive and heartwarming start to the final month of the centennial celebrations.

Moreover, a visual spectacle featured creatively designed floats that depicted various milestones and achievements of Laguna College. This parade was a vibrant display of pride and creativity featuring the Centennial King and Queen.

Grand Alumni Homecoming was the pinnacle of the centennial celebrations. Alumni from different generations gathered to reminisce, reconnect, and celebrate their alma mater. The event included a series of activities, from nostalgic campus tours to a grand gala night.

This homecoming was a testament to the enduring bonds formed at Laguna College — a joyous celebration of the college's history and its bright future.

Laguna College's Treasures

Meantime, the Loyalty Awards honored individuals who have shown unwavering dedication to the institution. These awards were a recognition of their contributions and commitment to upholding the values of Laguna College.

The awardees' dedication to the college was a testament to the strong sense of community and loyalty that Laguna College inspires. Additionally, the institution recognized its most outstanding and distinguished alumni for their exemplary achievements and contributions to society.

The Most Outstanding Alumnus was Chief Justice Alexander G. Gesmundo, and 17 others were named Most Distinguished Alumni. These individuals have made significant contributions in their respective fields, embodying the ideals of Laguna College. Their achievements are a testament to the college's legacy of excellence.

Meantime, in a nod to future generations, a time capsule was sealed in March 2023. This capsule, filled with mementos and messages from the centennial year, is set to be opened in another 100 years.

This act symbolizes the continuity of Laguna College's legacy and its ongoing impact on future generations. The time capsule is a hopeful gesture, looking forward to the college's future.

Throughout the upcoming year, Laguna College will embark on a series of events and initiatives that honor our legacy, celebrate achievements, and envision a future that builds upon the foundation laid by predecessors.

These festivities will serve as a tribute to the collective spirit that has been sustained over the past century and will inspire its people to continue reaching new heights in the years to come.

This is Laguna College's way of bridging memories from the past to the future and will be opened on December 30, 2048. 

Dalawampu't Lima: LCUP Looks Back on its 25-Year Journey as a University in its 86th Founding Anniversary

On top of commemorating its 86th Founding Anniversary, this year was even more special as the institution celebrated its 25 Silver Years as a University.

As an annual tradition, a week-long activity honoring this dual milestone was launched from December 1 to 9, 2023.

On December 4, 1997, after two formal attempts and four years of preparation, the institution was officially converted from Regina Carmeli College (RCC) to the University of Regina Carmeli (URC).

Later, because of a congregational decision that schools run by the Augustinian Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation carry one name, the University of Regina Carmeli was officially renamed La Consolacion University Philippines on January 8, 2011.

This year's celebration featured the main event, a moment of recognition and commemoration, on December 4, 2023, at the Kalinangan Auditorium.

In thanksgiving and gratitude, a Eucharistic Celebration was administered by Rev. Msgr. Pablo S. Legaspi.



This was followed by a formal program officiated by the University President Sr. Niceta M. Vargas.

To reminisce the 25-year journey of the institution as a University, a video presentation titled “Dalawampu’t Lima: LCUP’s 25th Anniversary as a University in its 86th Founding Anniversary” unraveled the history of LCUP filled with trials, thriving, and living up to its University status from 1997 up to the present time.

As a tribute to the pillars and leaders of the university, Sr. Vargas, together with the Superior General Sr. Eden L. Gicana, Board of Trustees Chairman Atty. Dominador Buhain, and LCUP Religious Community Coordinator Sr. Gemma P. Valenzuela awarded plaques of recognition to significant personalities with invaluable contributions throughout the 25-year journey.



These honorable people included Sr. Carmeli Marie V. Catan, Sr. Editha S. Zerna, Atty. Dominador Buhain, Dr. Reynaldo C. Cruz, Dr. Catalino P. Rivera, Dr. Angela L. Pesayco, Dr. Ophelia O. Joven, Madeline B. Perilla, Dr. Jaime P. Pulumbarit, Sr. Imelda Mora, Atty. Sabino R. Padilla Jr., Dr. Belen B. De Jesus, and Dr. Alvin V. Nuqui.



Sr. Catan took the virtual stage afterward to deliver a heartfelt response on behalf of the awardees.

Closing the formal program, the LCUP Community stood as one as they sang the LCUP Hymn together. 🎵



Foundation University thrives, strives at 75

— Maria Cecilia M. Genove

A higher education institution is only as good as the quality of instruction offered by its faculty and staff when students eventually graduate and carve a niche in the professional arena.

The countdown begins for Foundation University, which is commemorating its 75th anniversary or its Diamond Jubilee on July 4, as it has been true to its mission as a school that was established primarily to accommodate all students, regardless of race, creed, and economic background, thus, leaving no one behind.

In the words of founder Dr. Vicente G. Sinco, a native of Negros Oriental who come from a challenging socio-economic background because of his religious lineage, he stated the qualities of people they eye to receive Foundation University's quality education.

"We want to educate men and women whose only passport is intellectual competence; whose pursuit is excellence of mind, body, and character; and whose quest is for freedom and truth."

Dr. Sinco served as Dean of the College of Law of the University of the Philippines (UP) and UP President from 1958-1962. He started the then Foundation College 75 years ago with the mission of "promoting a climate of excellence in the pursuit of new knowledge and life-long learning in the service of society."

It must be its edge on digital technology that Foundation University has that made it responsive to the diverse needs of the times that contributed to its encouraging enrollment figures of late, even far better than those before the pandemic.

The core values of excellence, commitment, integrity, and service remain the guiding hallmarks of the university today.

By far, among its degree programs, Business Administration and Liberal Arts have been granted Level 3 re-accreditation status by the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (PACUCOA).

The B.S. Elementary Education and the B.S. Secondary Education Programs are now on their first Level 3 re-accredited status from PACUCOA.

Moreover, Industrial Engineering is on its second Level 2 re-accredited status from the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges, and Universities (PAASCU).

The Master in Business Administration and the Master of Arts in Education are on Level 1 candidate status.

In January last year, the following programs were accorded Associate Status by PACUCOA: A.B. Broadcast Communication, B.S. Biology, B.S. Criminology, B.S. Hospitality Management, and Master in Public Administration.

On March 18, 2024, the Foundation Preparatory Academy Science Wing was inaugurated.





On the same day, a groundbreaking was done for an extension of the College of Nursing Building as the College expects to admit up to 2,000 students by the academic year 2025-2026.



Similarly, the Main Library is expected to complete its renovation and expansion by the first quarter of 2025.

Also among the structures that will undergo refurbishing and renovation until 2027 are the Department of Architecture and Fine Arts, and the College of Hospitality Management.

As education in the 21st century gets to be more innovative and even creative, University President Arch. Victor Vicente “Dean” G. Sinco explained the importance of technology in instruction.

“We have felt that the inclusion of technology in instruction has always been a necessity for the past, present, and definitely, the future. But, it isn’t technology that is revolutionary as digital devices are just tools. What we have realized is that technology lends itself very well to ensuring that information and skills are learned, assimilated, and well implemented when the students are asked to do so,” he said.

As his grandson, Dean Sinco, added: “We wish to welcome to the university not only students with a similar

background as my grandfather’s, but also those with affluent means, coming from all walks of life, and to learn from the environment they came from.”

Such is the thrust of Foundation University through the years, guided by her founder’s mission.

The legacy of Dr. Vicente G. Sinco lives on in his grandson, Victor Vicente G. Sinco, the current president, as well as in the women and men who have imbibed the university’s mission and vision either as members of the administration, as faculty and staff, as students, and as alumni.

For its milestone of a Diamond Jubilee, the celebration kicked off at the 16th Digital Expo of the university on March 6-9, 2024 as the official logo and theme was launched.

This year’s theme is “FU@ 75: Thrive, Strive, Alive, Hi5.”

It will be an eventful year-round swirl of activities including the traditional university-wide Dal-uy Festival on Aug. 31, and the Kasadya-an on Dec. 4-7.

The various colleges and departments are also expected to come up with their respective lineup of activities to highlight their programs and offerings.

The Dal-uy Festival, dubbed as a manifestation of hope, is where all Foundationites write down their aspirations and dreams on cardboard lanterns, which are then made to float on water.

Originally known as Mardi Gras Festival, the Kasadya-an has evolved as a fitting year-ender for the university.

It features the Pasundayag, a festival of talents, culminating with a parade of lights around the city streets and converging at the school grounds for the awarding of deserving individuals and colleges.

Another highlight is the selection and coronation of Hara sa FU, a pageant to showcase the wit, talent, and advocacies of the Foundationite woman, and the Pahinungod to honor outstanding alumni.

Providing a historical perspective is the publication of Handuraw 2, a book that chronicles the life and times of Foundation University in the last 75 years, set to be launched by 2025.

In addition, the biography of President Emeritus Dr. Mira D. Sinco, former university president and wife of the late Leandro G. Sinco, who also served as university president, will be launched by December this year. 

Mariners Polytechnic Colleges, Inc. Celebrates its 50th Foundation Anniversary

— Dr. Marilissa J. Ampuan, Evita J. Tuazon and Dr. Cely S. Binoya

March 4, 2024 marks the 50th founding anniversary of Mariners Polytechnic Colleges Inc. in Naga City, one of the three schools established by the late Commodore Jaime Chavez Jimenez Sr. in the Bicol region.

Since its founding in 1974, Mariners Naga remains the only higher education institution in Bicol offering the accredited complete program in BS in Customs Administration, along with Tourism, Hotel, Business Management, and Culinary Arts.

Its students consistently garner awards in regional and national competency and skills competitions as they prepare to become valued graduates for on-land, on-sea, and on-air employment.

A crowning glory in its 50 years of existence is the five-floor Mariners Tourism and Hotel Institute (MTHI), the first mock-up in-house training center in Bicol where students prepare for international hotel management and the culinary professions.

Added to these is the unique multi-disciplinary training of grace, wit, and self-confidence for its men and women who also excel as among, if not the best school marching band with cadets and majorettes in every scholastic and festive community event in the region.

Indeed, it is an auspicious beginning for 2024, in the year of the Dragon, as MPCl celebrates its 50 years of golden and loving service to advance quality outcomes-based learning in the region.

The 50th foundation anniversary is a year-long celebration that started in June 2023 until June 2024 with the theme “Mariners: 50 years of Golden Service, Looking Back and Beyond.”

Starting with planning meetings in June, the highlights of the celebration in 2023 include a 3-day Skills Olympics on Oct. 2-4 at MPCl, Naga, the Fun Run - Walk for a Reason, Run for a Cause on December 9, 2023, the Jobs and Trade Fair, Local and International on Dec. 12, 2023, Pagheras sa Pasko (Gift Giving) for the Indigenous peoples of Buhi, Camarines Sur on Dec. 15, 2023, with more than 100 recipients; Alay Kay Buboy which include Kurit Aki or painting sessions for kids, gift giving and Christmas party on December 20, 2023 benefiting 120 children; and the continuing social enterprise development activities for organized disaster survivor groups in Camarines Sur and Albay from June 2023 to date.





For 2024, the activities before the big event on March 1 - 4 include the opening of the search for Mr. and Ms. Foundation with a Cause and confirmation of candidates in January, block screening of Aquaman at SM Naga Cinema 4 on February 17; the 2nd Fun Run - Walk for a Reason, Run for a Cause on February 24; the Trade Fair participated by the Social Enterprise groups of disaster survivors in Camarines Sur with the Peoples' Organization of Disaster Survivors in Canaman, Dugcal, Camaligan, and Pili; the Ilaw ng Kababaihan of Canaman, and Naga; the Bugkos Kabataan of Canaman, the Kabute-han sa Libmanan, and the Mabuhay Entrepreneurs of Libmanan who displayed and sold their products from Feb. 29 to March 3 at MPCF grounds.



The big event started on March 1 with a thanksgiving mass at the MPCF campus.

This was celebrated by His Excellency, the most reverend Bishop Rolando Octavus J. Tria Tirona, the Archbishop of Caceres, followed by the Ribbon Cutting and official opening of the MPCF Museum.

Regional Director Herbie B. Aquas of the Department of Tourism graced the opening program as the keynote speaker.

Side by side with the opening program was the Jobs Fair held at the Robinson's Mall, Naga City from 8:00 - 5:00 PM.

On March 2, there was a Grand Parade and Motorcade from MPCF campus to Naga City main routes.

Other activities include the preliminary competition of Mr. and Ms. Foundation, the swimming competition, Skills Olympics, and tree planting of 50 fruit tree seedlings, which were held at the Mariners Canaman campus.

On March 3, aside from the Trade Fair, the main event was the final selection on Mr. and Ms. Foundation, where 23 candidates vied for the crowns.

In the clash of beauty and intellectual prowess of the candidates from the three campuses of Mariners - Naga, Canaman, and Legaspi, Gabriel Aguirre and Alicia Kaye Naron, both from Mariners Naga, were crowned Mr. and Ms. Foundation 2024. Outstanding students and student organizations were also recognized during this event.

The finale day on March 4 featured the Grand Awards Night, which was held at the Tent, Avenue Plaza Hotel, Naga City with more than 350 guests who were welcomed by the President of MPCF and MPCF Dr. Marilissa J. Ampuan.

The occasion was graced by Naga City Mayor Nelson Legacion who gave an inspirational message.

Merle J. San Pedro, President of MPCF Legaspi introduced the Director General of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Dr. Suharto T. Mangudadatu who delivered a keynote speech.

Major awards were given to recognize exemplary and dedicated service of faculty, staff, College Officials, and institutional partners. The school will publish a souvenir program which will be out of the printing press and ready for distribution on April 30, in time for the birth anniversary of the Founder.



Indeed, Mariners Polytechnic Colleges, Inc. has achieved a milestone in delivering quality education to its clientele.

This was affirmed by the message of the Maritime Industry Authority Regional Director Atty. Maximo I. Banares, Jr.

"This significant milestone is a testament to the unwavering dedication, innovation, and commitment to excellence that have defined Mariners throughout its illustrious journey in the realms of maritime, hospitality, and business education. May the next 50 years be filled with even greater achievements, milestones, and successes as you continue to redefine the boundaries of excellence," he said. 

Celebrating Excellence: 23rd Founding Anniversary of Lyceum of the Philippines – Laguna



The Lyceum of the Philippines - Laguna (LPU-Laguna) marked its 23rd Founding Anniversary with a grand celebration from February 21 to 23, with the theme “Enhancing Learning Experience through Innovation and Collaboration.”

This year’s anniversary was significant as it celebrated LPU-Laguna’s recognition by QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) World University Rankings as the only 4-Star Rated University in Laguna.

QS is a prestigious rating system that evaluates universities worldwide based on various performance indicators, including teaching, employability, and facilities, showcasing LPU-Laguna’s commitment to leading innovation, passion for customer experience, and unity and collaboration.

The three-day celebration, led by the College of Arts and Sciences, was a vibrant showcase of the university’s spirit, talents, and achievements.

Festivities

The campus buzzed with activities that highlighted the diverse talents of the students and the strong community spirit that truly defines LPU-Laguna.

On the first day, the university grounds were transformed into a festive arena.

The opening ceremony featured a ceremonial unfurling of a giant tarpaulin followed by a parade of students from various departments. The drums, shouting, and chants added excitement to each event.

The collaborative effort and support from the LPU community were evident as everyone came together to celebrate the university’s legacy and future.

One of the highlights of the anniversary was the Street Dance Competition where teams from different departments showcased their choreography, festivity, and creativity, leaving the audience in awe.

The competition was fierce, but it was about expressing the dynamic and energetic spirit of LPU-Laguna rather than just winning.

Music enthusiasts were treated to a spectacular show during the LPU Idol and Power Duets. Soloists and duets composed of students and faculty competed, bringing their best with stunning vocal performances ranging from soulful ballads to powerful upbeat songs.

The event was a testament to the university's nurturing environment for budding musicians and performers, providing them with a platform to shine.

The much-awaited Dance Showdown, specifically focusing on Hip-Hop, brought another level of excitement.

Dance crews from various departments battled with intricate moves, synchronization, and innovative routines.



The Hip-Hop showdown was not only a competition but a celebration of the art form that resonates strongly with the culture at LPU-Laguna.

For the first time in the university's founding anniversary celebrations, a Dance Sport competition was introduced.

This new addition was met with enthusiasm and anticipation. Pairs competed in various dance styles, showcasing grace, precision, and passion.

The festivities reached their peak with the much-anticipated Mr. & Ms. LPU pageant. This event was not just a beauty contest but a celebration of intellect, beauty, and advocacy.

Contestants from different departments vied for the titles, impressing the judges with their wit, charm, and commitment to their causes.



Commitment to Excellence

A cornerstone of the anniversary celebrations was the annual Founder's Lecture, where members of the Laurel family or LPU pioneer members shared their achievements and ongoing legacy.

This year's lecture featured LPU-Batangas Institutional Affairs Vice President Paolo S. Laurel, who provided valuable insights into the university's history and commitment to excellence.



He encouraged students to advance their careers and take them to new heights, saying, "Look, I already have the pressure. But if I always think about it, it will consume my mind. I think it is very important for us to do more."

In addition, the Research Colloquium showcased the best student papers, highlighting LPU-Laguna's dedication to academic excellence and research.

This event allowed students to present their work, demonstrating the university's quality standards.

Throughout the anniversary celebrations, the university's commitment to being industry-driven and student-centered was evident.

LPU-Laguna has consistently strived to align its programs with industry needs, ensuring that its graduates are well-prepared for the challenges of the professional world. This approach has earned LPU-Laguna its 4-Star rating, making it a beacon of quality education in the region.

The success of the 23rd Founding Anniversary was a collective effort. The university's administration, faculty, staff, and students worked tirelessly to ensure that every event was a resounding success.

The support from alumni and industry partners further underscored the strong network and community that LPU-Laguna has built over the years.

Reflecting on the journey of LPU-Laguna, one can see a narrative of growth, resilience, and excellence. From its humble beginnings, the university has grown into a prime institution in the south, recognized for its quality education and vibrant campus life.

The 23rd Founding Anniversary was not just a celebration of the past and present but also a vision for the future - a future where LPU-Laguna continues to innovate, inspire, and make an impact.

Here's to many more years of success, growth, and celebration! 



MC EVP Cruz receives distinctions as a CPA nationwide

— Elisa F. De Jesus, *The College Chronicle*

Proud is an understatement!

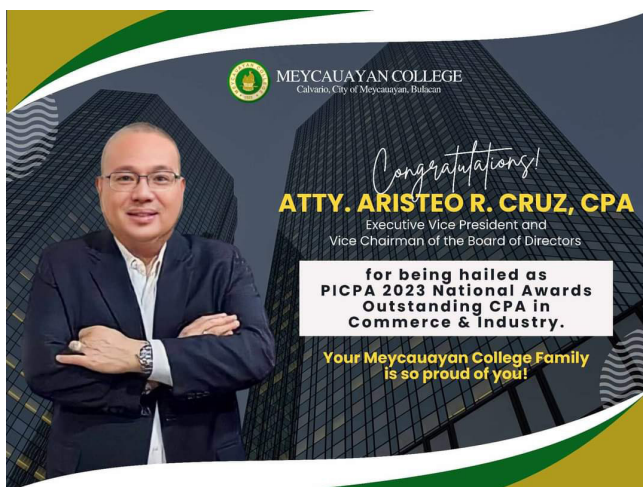
Meycauayan College (MC) community applauds its Executive Vice President (EVP) and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors Atty. Aristeo R. Cruz for reaching several milestones throughout this past year.

In March, Atty. Cruz has been inducted as the Chairperson of the People's Law Enforcement Board (PLEB) of the City of Meycauayan, Bulacan, receiving praise from the people who protect its law-abiding citizens from the abuse of authority.



He has also been elected as the National Executive Vice President for 2024 by the National Board of the Association of CPAs in Commerce and Industry (ACPACI), an organization committed to providing quality financial and allied services to support effective business decisions across the country.

Consequently, his nationwide achievements were hailed far and wide earning the title Outstanding CPA in Commerce and Industry by the Philippine Institute of CPAs in a three-day Annual National Convention in Sorsogon, Bicol in November 2023.



These mentioned awards are indeed a feather in the cap for Atty. Cruz, as he continues to make his name known for his service, dedication, and zeal as a Certified Public Accountant.

Despite being flooded with praises and congratulatory messages online, Atty. Cruz did not forget to thank the people who supported him including PICPA - Bulacan Chapter in which he served as a president for fiscal year 2020-2021. His plethora of awards in the same field makes him a shining beacon of inspiration for aspiring CPAs, especially in Meycauayan College.

With Atty. Cruz's hard work, dedication to service, and passion for the accounting world, his potential for achieving even greater things is still to be discovered.



TUV Rheinland thumbs up SISC Passes ISO surveillance audit anew

Southville International School and Colleges (SISC) passed the second surveillance audit conducted by external auditors TUV Rheinland from April 15 to 16 to retain its ISO 9001:2015 certification with no non-conformances or negative observations for the 10th straight year.

The ISO's stamp of approval assures that SISC continues to uphold the highest standards in its academic programs and support services since it first received the ISO certification in 2004.

The renewal of certification proves that the school can sustain a strong quality management system and that its human resources can effectively and efficiently carry out the processes.

SISC's Quality Management Representative, Dr. Ruel Cajili, expressed his joy with the reaccreditation for "continuing the school's proud tradition of delivering high-quality education by achieving no nonconformity in its processes and system for 10 straight years, and celebrating its 20th year of adhering to the highest standards of management, instruction, research, and support."



ISO 9001 : 2015 Second Surveillance Audit
Southville International School and Colleges
April 15-16, 2024

MC joins Research Breakthroughs at 7th International Conference in Cebu

— Erin Mhae G. Evangelio, *The College Chronicle*

CEBU CITY, Philippines - The 7th International Conference on Management, Education, and Emerging Technology was successfully held for two days on April 3-4, 2024, in this city.

The event, organized by the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) in partnership with the Core Research Foundation, is anchored on the theme "Navigating the Future: Integrating Management, Education, and Emerging Technology in the Global Stage."

Meycauayan College (MC) representatives Carmina Beluan and Karen Marie Ramirez played vital roles as members of the esteemed technical committee. Their participation in the conference allowed them to establish numerous valuable connections and potential partnerships for their institution.

The conference acted as a platform to discuss the practical implementation challenges of advanced knowledge across the fields of management, education, social sciences, and engineering and technology.

"This conference provided an invaluable platform to share knowledge. Presenting my study enabled me to receive feedback and engage in scholarly discussions with educators from various fields. It also opened doors for networking with other researchers, with the potential for research collaborations and career advancements," Beluan said.

The event likewise facilitated fruitful discussions and the sharing of best practices, offering valuable insights to enhance research and educational endeavors in their institution.

This journey proved to be incredibly impactful for the two professors, as they had the privilege of collaborating with distinguished individuals from the research community worldwide.



7th International Conference on Management,
Education and Emerging Technology 2024

Southville Student named SDGs Youth Action Ambassador

— Abigail Bay

Out of thousands of candidates, a senior high school student from Southville International School and Colleges (SISC) was named Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Youth Action Ambassador by Youth Now.

Grade 12 student Jacqueline Ross Jocson was selected as one of the Top 100 SDGs Ambassadors from Asia and the Pacific countries.

The selection was based on students' passion and commitment to the SDGs set forward by the United Nations.

Jocson joined other young leaders in the Global Goals Summit held from January 25 to 27 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

As Philippine youth ambassador, she presented a 3-minute talk about SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all – in the context of the Philippines.

She also engaged with thought leaders and policymakers from around the world regarding the SDGs and toward creating positive change on a global scale. 



UCV confers honoris causa to UPLB Chancellor Camacho

— Dr. Joel Joseph L. Egipto

The University of Cagayan Valley (UCV), the institution in Region II with the highest number of PACUCOA accredited programs, honored the achievements and contributions of Dr. Jose V. Camacho Jr., present chancellor of the University of the Philippines Los Banos, by conferring him the degree Doctor of Humanities "Honoris Causa" on April 22 at the UCV Greyhounds Gymnasium.

As one of the highlights of its 75th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Celebration being founded in 1948, UCV recognized Dr. Camacho in a solemn conferment ceremony due to his extensive contribution to humanity and sterling service to the nation through economics, education, governance, and research.

The said ceremony was attended by dignitaries from CHED, UPLB, and UCV including officials from the different higher education institutions in Region II.

Dr. Camacho, who is also the dean of the UPLB Graduate School, is the chair of the technical panel on Graduate Education of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the co-chair of the CHED Technical Working Group for the Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP) Graduate Programs.

A former chair of UPLB Department of Economics, Dr. Camacho is a professor of economics and an affiliate professor of development studies at the UP Open University where he instituted a Master in ASEAN studies course.

He obtained his doctorate in economics from the Kyoto University Graduate School of Economics in Kyoto, Japan, his master's degree in Economics

of Development from the Erasmus University International Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, Netherlands, and his bachelor's degree in Economics from UPLB.

Currently, Dean Camacho is the program leader of an Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and DOST-funded mixed methods- impact assessment project.

He also serves as program/project leader of various research and training projects which include a 10-year multi-million, DOST-funded Accelerated Science and Technology Human Resource Development graduate scholarship program.

UCV President Dr. Esther Susan Perez-Mari, in her welcome address during the conferment ceremony, said the honor bestowed on Dr. Camacho is a testament to building bridges between and among institutions, reaching the academic landscapes and empowering communities in response to globalization and internalization.

She added that it is not merely a symbolic gesture but a commitment to excellence and collaboration in higher education.

In his message, Dr. Camacho said his conferment marks a major milestone in the relationship between and among UPLB, UCV, and other higher education institutions (HEIs) in Cagayan Valley Region.

"[Now's] the time to explore further opportunities and collaborations between these universities for a partnership with UPLB," he said.

Dr. Camacho and Dr. Perez-Mari share the same view as regards higher education institutions collaborating for academic diffusion that endeavors to widen their scale and scope to provide authentic and realistic learning, and educational services to students.

They both regard the partnership between UPLB and UCV as an academic opportunity to share complementary strengths which would not only benefit UCV but also other schools in Region II as they grow together through the exchange of faculty, researchers, and students, collaborative research and extension projects, capacity-building programs, exchange of academic information and materials, and promotion of academic activities, benefitting the students - the biggest beneficiaries of partnerships. 



PTC's Project RISE signs MOA with Mapúa MCL

To mitigate the adverse effects of disasters, Mapua Malayan Colleges Laguna has signed a memorandum of agreement with the Philippine Transmarine Carriers, Inc. (PTC).

PTC is an organization that aims to harness the expertise of current and future maritime professionals by working together in sharing knowledge and skills with communities in terms of disaster preparedness, community disaster resilience, and risk management.

This partnership shall facilitate the implementation of Project RISE or the Resiliency Improvement Support and Education for the Seafarer Community in the Philippines.

The project consists of the following components: (1) Training program – Citizens Training Program & Master Training Program; (2) Project RISE mobile app that will monitor the weather and calamities that would affect the City of Cabuyao; (3) Master of Disaster (MOD) – a board game about that teaches how to prepare and actively respond to different calamities in the Philippines; (4) PTC-RISE MCL Volunteers – MCL student volunteers through the Mapúa-PTC College of Maritime Education and Training (Mapúa-PTC CMET); and (5) Integration of modules on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) into the National Service Training Program (NSTP) courses to mainstream topics about climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

Through the Center for Service-Learning and Community Engagement (CSCE), Project RISE is aimed at developing the capacity of the MMCL students, to respond to disaster situations of the most disaster-prone communities in the

City of Cabuyao the Project RISE (Resiliency Improvement Support and Education for the Seafarer Community in the Philippines).

The Student Leaders and Facilitators' Orientation highlighted the importance of learning disaster risk reduction management as all share the same space, environment, and natural resources.

The following were the phases of the project: conduct of Master Trainer Program (MTP) and Citizen Trainer Program (CTP); Project RISE mobile application; application of the Master of Disaster (MOD) board game; pooling of Project RISE – MMCL Volunteers; integration of DRRM to NSTP (National Service Training Program) courses that has DRRM as one of its topics; and Project RISE Cabuyao Volunteer Network.

The PTC-MMCL project partnership also introduced the concept of gender-based violence in emergencies (GBViE) as an equally important component of disaster risk and resilience.

The Master Trainer Program orientation highlighted the most important concepts related to DRRM and GBViE, the latter giving a gender lens in the understanding of DRR.

The MTP was conducted hybrid with 150 participants comprising students and members of the MMCL faculty and departments and approximately 60 participants in Zoom.

The student participants cascaded the DRRM and GBViE lessons to their fellow students and members of their respective communities as part of their project commitments.

As an incentive, the PTC provided each participant with a set of safety kits that included a vest and a flashlight among others. 





CEU Stages Festival of Creative Works

"Creativity is just connecting things. When you ask creative people how they did something, they feel a little guilty because they didn't really do it, they just saw something. It seemed obvious to them after a while. That's because they were able to connect experiences they've had and synthesize new things."

— Steve Jobs

Creative work including visual arts, literature, filmmaking, dance, and music is a manifestation and demonstration of artistry and originality.

On May 24, 2024, the first ever Centro Escolar University (CEU) Festival of Creative Works was held. The activity aims to showcase the creative work outputs of faculty members and undergraduate students; fire up their creative work potential; provide a formal forum for sharing creative work outputs; and encourage students and faculty to engage in innovative endeavors.

In CEU, creative works are classified into major, substantial, and minor based on their scope of work. Major creative works are distinguished by having a high degree of complexity and/or sophistication in structure, scope or scale, cultural significance and influence on peers in the field.

They introduce novel or highly innovative concepts, methodologies, approaches, repertoire, and interrelationships.

Meanwhile, substantial creative works are those with synthesis or extension of existing concepts, methodologies, approaches, repertoire, and/or artistic or intellectual inter-relationships; and moderate degree of complexity and/or sophistication in structure or scale, cultural significance, and influence on peers in the field.

Minor creative works, on the hand, include individual artworks, photo essays, photo books, artist books, prose, catalog essays, short stories, poems, segments of a musical or theatrical productions, and participation in exhibitions or performances. Multidisciplinary collaborations that combine skills and research, such as group performances and group exhibitions also fall into this category.

Original musical composition and film were exhibited in the maiden staging of CEU Festival of Creative Works, with a story as to how the authors developed them.

Diwa ng Escolarian

Theme song for 2023 CEU Sportsfest

Lyrics: Dr. Sharon Galang

Music: Prof. Ian Gabriel Corpuz

Arrangement: Ralph Joseph Dauz



The theme song was a collaborative effort of the faculty and the students of School of Education, Liberal Arts, Music, and Social Work (SELAMS), who hosted the 2023 CEU Sportsfest. The lyrics were composed by Dr. Sharon Galang and through the leadership of its Dean, Dr. Maria Rita D. Lucas, to celebrate the 100 years of SELAMS. The idea of strong and healthy Escolarians working together to succeed was incorporated in the lyrics.

The musical arrangement applied is easy-to-sing and easy-to-remember and was made by Prof. Ian Gabriel Corpuz, a faculty of the Conservatory of Music. The arrangement for orchestra was created, in turn, by a music production and engineering third year student, Mr. Ralph Joseph Dauz.

Ama, Patawarin Mo Sila

First of the Seven Last Words

Composition by Prof. Lester Delgado



The song composition, Ama, Patawarin Mo Sila, is based on the first (Like 23:24) of Seven Last Words which talks about Jesus' plea to God, the Father for His mercy. The music is like telling a story with affirmation. This was written to give a message of hope during the time of the pandemic.

IBARRA, the Musical

Music by Prof. Joed Balsamo



The musical is based on the novel "Noli Me Tangere", adapted into a play by Jomar Fleras, transformed to KANSER in 2015 and recalibrated to Ibarra in 2022 with additional materials by Paul Morales to focus the story on the main character, Crisostomo Ibarra. Prof. Balsamo captured the audience with his music through the actor Piolo Pascual as Ibarra. Made for 13 musicians and a theater cast, the production was fully an original Filipino modern musical.

Mandy

CEU Entry to the FILMARE Student

Mobile Film

Making Competition during the

FILMARE Film Festival 2024



A product of the collaborative efforts of the AB Communication and Media students from CEU Manila and CEU Malolos, the film won Best Picture, People's Choice, and Best Actress award for Hannah Canlas, one of the Communication and Media students.

Mandy is an inspiring film that shows the struggles of a 13-year-old slowly losing her childhood and facing adult problems. This is a drama that will leave you with a question, "She's a child, right?"

Organized by Stimula Productions, the Filmare Film Festival 2024 (NCR Leg) is the first of a series of filmmaking contests, utilizing only smartphones as tools in creating inspirational films.

The CEU Festival of Creative Works henceforth, will be an exciting annual event of CEU. 

UST holds AI Summit 2024

The University of Santo Tomas held the AI Summit 2024 on March 18 and 19, 2024, at the Grand Ballroom of the Bl. Buenaventura García Paredes, O.P. Building.



With the theme “Advancing AI Capability and Promoting AI Safety,” the AI Summit 2024 brought together more than 400 educators, researchers, industry practitioners, government leaders, non-government, and educational organizations and agencies to engage in meaningful conversations on the impact of the rapidly evolving field of AI on education, the workplace, and society.

Opportunities for Innovation and Collaboration

The AI Summit served as a platform for fostering innovation and collaboration. It provided a unique opportunity for industry professionals, researchers, policymakers, and entrepreneurs to exchange ideas, share insights, and explore cutting-edge advancements in AI technology. By facilitating interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration, the summit created an avenue conducive to pushing the boundaries of AI innovation further.

AI's Impact Across Industries

One of the main objectives of the summit was to explore the diverse applications of AI across various industries. From industry experts, educators, AI professionals, policy-makers, researchers, and beyond, AI is revolutionizing traditional processes, enhancing efficiency, and driving unprecedented levels of productivity. Through the keynote speeches, panel discussions, and interactive workshops, participants were able to gain valuable insights into how AI is reshaping industries and creating new opportunities for growth and development.

The AI Summit 2024 kicked off with keynote speeches from policymakers, program developers, academics, and industry practitioners to provide perspectives and guidance on navigating artificial intelligence at present and in the future, promoting innovation and collaboration. The morning plenary session on Day 1 included the following speakers and their presentations: Prof. Shafika Isaacs, Ph.D. of the University of Johannesburg (Advancing AI Capability in Education – critically & with caution), Prof. Lev Gonick, Chief Technology Officer of Arizona State University (Global Frameworks for AI Policy and Program Development), Ms. Michelle Alarcon, President of the Analytics Association of the Philippines (AI Governance Framework in the Philippines), Mr. Jack Madrid, President and CEO of the IT and Business Process Association of the Philippines (Preparing the Future Workforce for the Needs of the IT-BPM Industry), Asst. Prof. Joseph Benjamin Ilagan, Program Director of the IT-Entrepreneurship Program of the Ateneo de Manila University (Generative AI and Emerging University Startup and Entrepreneurship Initiatives), and Prof. Cheryl Peralta, DrPh, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs of UST (Harnessing AI's Potentials and Overcoming Challenges for Educators).



The afternoon session of Day 1 presented the whys and hows of AI capability building for relevant and acceptable use in the workplace, education, and even in daily social activities. This provided opportunities to explore the diverse applications of AI across various industries.

The speakers and their presentations included: Dr. Ethel Agnes Villanueva, Chairperson of the Technical Working Group on Lifelong Learning at the Commission on Higher Education (AI Competency Frameworks and Standards for the Future Workforce), Ms. Kyle Bowen, Deputy Chief Information Officer of ASU (One Size Fits One Learning Experiences), Mr. Sherwin Pelayo, Executive Director of AAP (Using the Philippine Skills Framework for Analytics and Artificial Intelligence (PSF-AAI) for Workforce Development), Ms. Noemi Lardizabal-Dado, Columnist of The Manila Times (Creativity is Integrated into Education), Mr. Beato Bongco, Co-Founder and CEO of AnyCase.ai (Prospects of AI for Startups: The Case of Generative AI for the Legal Profession), and Asst. Prof. Anna Cherylle Ramos, Director of the Educational Technology Center of UST (Harnessing AI's Potentials and Overcoming Challenges for Educators).

Ethical AI and Responsible Innovation

As AI technologies continue to evolve, the importance of ethical

AI and responsible innovation cannot be overstated. The summit provided a forum for discussing the ethical implications of AI deployment, addressing concerns related to bias, privacy, and algorithmic transparency. By fostering discussions on responsible AI practices, the summit ensured that AI development remains aligned with societal ethical values and promotes the greater good. These concerns were the main focus for the morning session of Day 2 of the summit.

The speakers and their presentations included: Hon. Cong. Mark Go of the House of Representatives (AI Safety in Education), Prof. Vicente Antonio Pijano III, Chancellor and COO of the Philippine Women's College, Davao representing the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities (Acceptable AI Policy Development for Educational Institutions), Dr. Allison Hall, Senior Director of ASU Enterprise Technology (Drafting Course Policies for Acceptable AI Use), Mr. Dominic Vincent Ligot, Founder and CEO of Cirrolytix (AI Ethics for Education and the Workplace), Mr. Miguel de Guzman, AI Safety Researcher of Data Ethics Ph and Council for Responsible Analytics and Artificial Intelligence (Promoting AI Safety: Findings from Recent Research Evidence), and Asst. Prof. Leo-Martin Angelo Ocampo, academic staff of UST (Strengthening Humanity and Human Agency in the Era of Artificial Intelligence).



Next Generation of AI Leaders

The AI Summit maintains its commitment to nurturing the next generation of AI talent. Through mentorship programs, networking opportunities, and educational workshops, the summit empowered aspiring AI professionals to hone their skills, expand their knowledge, and make meaningful contributions to the field. By investing in talent development, the summit sought to foster a vibrant AI ecosystem that thrives on diversity, creativity, and innovation.

Given these aspirations for future AI leaders, the plenary sessions were capped by launching the MasterTrack Specialist Certificate on AI-Integrated Learning and Development under the AI Core Certification for Educators (ACE) Program of the University of Santo Tomas.

This post-baccalaureate certificate program is anchored on the Philippine Skills Framework for Analytics and Artificial Intelligence and the Philippine Skills Framework for Human Capital Development and comprises six Master Courses.

Each Master Course will run for 54 hours, 5-6 weeks, equivalent to a 3-unit course in the University, for a total of 18 units.

Finally, the afternoon AI Summit 2024 concluded with parallel workshops on Introductory AI Tool Navigation and Immersive Experience in Specific Disciplines, discipline-clustered parallel sessions that allowed participants to experience Generative AI tools relevant to particular disciplines work, navigate these tools, and reflect on their experience regarding their possible uses, advantages, pitfalls, implications on learning and development, and key considerations before use. There were also parallel workshops on Course Level Policy PIAI-Ground (Reflecting on Considerations For Classroom-Level AI Use), AI acceptable use policy writeshops for educators who want to draft course policies to help guide AI integration to instruction.

The Road Ahead

The Artificial Intelligence Summit 2024, with all its partners and experts, stood as a beacon of inspiration, guiding the education sector towards a future where AI-driven innovation enhances lives, drives economic prosperity, and fosters social progress. By bringing together the brightest minds in AI, the summit paved the way for a future where the possibilities of artificial intelligence were proven limitless.

Ultimately, the summit stood as a testament to the transformative power of AI and the boundless potential it holds for shaping the future. Through collaboration, innovation, and responsible stewardship, UST can hopefully harness the full potential of AI to contribute to various sustainable development goals in order to build a brighter, more inclusive future for generations to come.

The AI Summit 2024 was successfully undertaken with UST's collaborating partners: the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities (PACU), Private Education Assistance Committee (PEAC), USAID-RTI International in partnership with the UPSKILL Design Collaboratory Arizona State University (ASU)- University Design Institute, and CirroLytx. The AI Summit 2024 also had supporting partners: the Analytics and Artificial Intelligence Association of the Philippines (AAP), the IT and Business Processing Association of the Philippines (IBPAP), and the Rotary Club of Makati. 

UB hosts PACU Delegation for Expanded Board Meeting

In the spirit of collaboration, The University of Baguio proudly opened its doors and hosted the expanded board meeting of the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities (PACU) - Luzon at the university's Centennial Hall. This prestigious gathering served as a crucial platform for cooperation among leaders in Philippine higher education, fostering dynamic discussions and initiatives that aim to enhance the quality and reach of education across the country.

Members of the university's leadership and top management extended a warm welcome to the representatives of PACU. Chairman of the Board Dr. Zorba Bnn Bautista and UB President Engr. Javier Herminio Bautista personally greeted the delegation alongside members of the top management, namely Vice President for Administration Atty. ROMmel Ayson and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Janice Kaylyn Lonogan.

The reception featured captivating performances from the UB Performing Arts. The UB UBBUK gave the representatives a thrilling experience of Cordilleran culture with their traditional dance ensemble, while the UB Voices Chorale put on a rousing musical number that captivated the audience with its harmonies. The School of International Hospitality and Tourism Management (SIHTM) also played a hand in the ceremonies, with UB's in-house Chef and culinary students providing the meals that the delegation happily partook in.



The university is nothing if not dedicated to ensuring that it can be the catalyst for positive change within the community. Being the host of events such as the PACU-Luzon Expanded Board Meeting is only one in dozens of initiatives that the university has taken in its journey to aid in the evolution of the landscape of higher education.





UST College of Education's 38th Fr. Gonzales, O.P. Memorial Lecture features Atty. Robredo

Former Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines and lawyer Maria Leonor “Leni” Robredo on April 19 delivered the 38th Fr. Antonio Gonzales, O.P. Memorial Lecture at the Dr. Robert C. Sy Grand Ballroom, Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, O.P. Building.

Organized by the Department of Secondary Education under the UST College of Education, this momentous event served as the initial salvo leading to the fortnight celebration of the 98th Founding Anniversary of the UST College of Education, with the theme “EduGREAT at 98: Gratitude, Resilience and Excellence Amidst Transitions.”

In his opening remarks, Secondary Education Department Chair Dr. John Christian C. Valeroso pointed out that beyond the original meaning of LPT, or Licensed Professional Teacher, it should mean “Leader na may Pagmamahal sa Tao,” reflecting the true role of teachers in our society.

Robredo expressed that it is humbling to be given a “chance to share with you our lived experiences as we strive to contribute in achieving the fulfillment of our hopes, particularly through our education initiatives.”

“Maliit lang naman po ang mga education initiatives namin, pero ‘yung aming aspiration ay sana kahit paano maka-contribute to the transformation of our educational system,” she said.

The lawyer mentioned invitations from academic institutions, think tanks, and organizations who have taken a special interest on hearing the Filipino story. These include the Obama Foundation Democracy Forum in New York, USA, the Asia Society Foundation in Zurich, Switzerland, and the Rockefeller Foundation in Bellagio, Italy.

Robredo, chairperson and president of Angat Buhay: Partnerships Against Poverty, highlighted volunteers’ efforts in building makeshift classrooms

for early grade learners and constructing dormitories in public high schools.

This initiative addresses the issue of student dropouts due to long travel distances.

Additionally, volunteers trained parents in backyard farming to ensure children have access to nutritious food.

Ending her lecture ‘Community and our shared dreams for the Filipino youth,’ Robredo said she chose to keep faith in the Filipino solidarity and is looking forward to a partnership with the College of Education and the whole Thomasian community.

UST Research Center for Social Sciences and Education Director Dr. Jeremaiah Opiniano, Assistant to the Rector for Planning and Quality Management Dr. Clarita Carillo, and Student Teachers’ Association of University of Santo Tomas President Ma. Bianca Lourize V. Franco served as reactors.

In her closing remarks, College of Education Dean Dr. Pilar Romero shared that “Liwanag sa Dilim,” a song popular during the campaign for the last national elections, resonated “with us not only because it was our anthem during the election, but because it speaks of our core, that as Thomasians we are called to bring the light of truth to dispel the darkness of ignorance.”

The College of Education 98th Foundation Anniversary was nothing short of a variety of activities organized by both academic staff and students.

In 2026, the College will celebrate its centennial—a testament to the enduring legacy of providing quality education to future teachers, librarians, food technologists, and nutritionists. 



PACU Committee on Institutional Quality Improvement (CIQI) Organizes the First International Benchmarking Visit in Seoul, Republic of Korea

— Dr. Jocelyn Tizon, President, Southville International School and Colleges & Ms. Joyce Anne C. Samaniego, PACU Executive Director

ANNEYONGHASEO!

The Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities, through the Committee on Institutional Quality Improvement (CIQI), with the technical assistance of the USAID's UPSKILL Program (US-PHL Skills, Innovation and Lifelong Learning Program) conducted the South Korea Transnational Education Benchmarking Visit held on May 22- 26, 2024.

This activity is part of its commitment to enhance the capacities of PACU member school presidents and officers in ensuring Philippine colleges and universities are part of global standards and transnational higher education (TNHE) initiatives; it intends to have a program that will illustrate best practices in TNHE.

The PACU benchmarking program was designed with a broad scope, aiming to glean insights from various facets of global education. It encompassed areas such as transnational education, e-learning, lifelong learning, and

more. The program drew inspiration from top Korean institutions, including the Incheon Global Campus (a joint campus for the State University of New York Korea, George Mason University Korea, Ghent University Global Campus, and The University of Utah Asia), the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (UNESCO APCEIU), Kyungwoon University, Visang Education, and the National Institute for Lifelong Education (NILE).

The benchmarking program saw an enthusiastic response from PACU member schools, with seventeen (17) representatives signing up to take part in the trip. The delegates and participating schools were the following:

- Dr. Patricia Lagunda and Ms. Janelle Alyssa Lagunda of Baliuag University;
- Engr. Bernard Nicolas Villamor, PACU and Cebu Institute of Technology- University President;
- Dr. Carol Lynn Macagba of LORMA Colleges;
- Misamis University, Dr. Karen De Leon and

Mr. Orlando De Leon

- Dr. Caroline Marian Enriquez and Ms. Mylene Santos of Our Lady of Fatima University- Valenzuela City;
- Ms. Gaypelyn Casiw and Mr. Shielilo Amihan of Philippine College of Criminology;
- Ms. Felina Young of Philippine Women's University Manila;
- Ms. Donna Marie Santos and Mr. Cary Brian Santos of Polytechnic College of La Union;
- Dr. Ma. Socorro Eala and Ms. Jessamyn Marie Yazon of San Pablo Colleges;
- Dr. Renato Tanchoco Jr. of Manila Central University; and
- Dr. Jocelyn P. Tizon of Southville International School and Colleges (SISC)

These representatives had the opportunity to visit the aforementioned institutions, engaging in fruitful knowledge exchanges. This active participation underscores the commitment of PACU member schools to internationalization efforts and the delivery of quality education.

The itinerary also included a cultural tour to foster stronger bonds among PACU officers. The tour also explored the Bukchon Hanok Village, where each corner narrates a tale of traditional Korean culture. It included a visit to the surrounding Gyeongbokgung Palace, where

participants donned traditional Hanbok attire and immersed themselves in its rich heritage.

We thank the following institutions and officers who were instrumental in finalizing the program itinerary, coordinating with the organizations in South Korea, and guiding the PACU delegates during the entire trip:

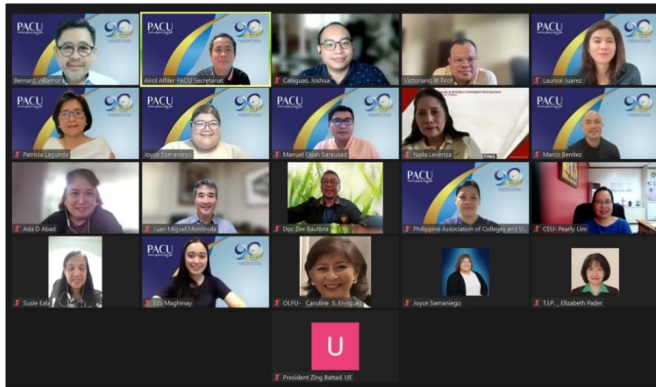
- President Engr. Bernard Nicolas E. Villamor and PACU Executive Committee
- PACU - CIQI Committee led by Dr. Caroline Marian S. Enriquez, President of Our Lady of Fatima University
- CHED Commissioner Dr. Ethel Agnes Valenzuela
- USAID UPSKILL Program through Dr. Richard S. Abendan, Chief of Party and Mr. Raphael Cada, Policy Development Specialist
- Dr. Utak Chung, Former Director, Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU), Republic of Korea, and
- The PACU Secretariat led by Executive Director Joyce Anne C. Samaniego, Ms. Ria Lascano and Mr. Airol Alfiler

Kamsahamnida! 

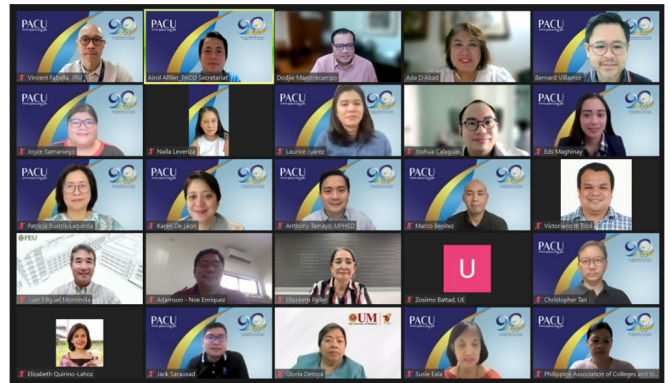


REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS

October 20, 2023



January 26, 2024



March 22, 2024



April 19, 2024



EXPANDED BOARD MEETINGS

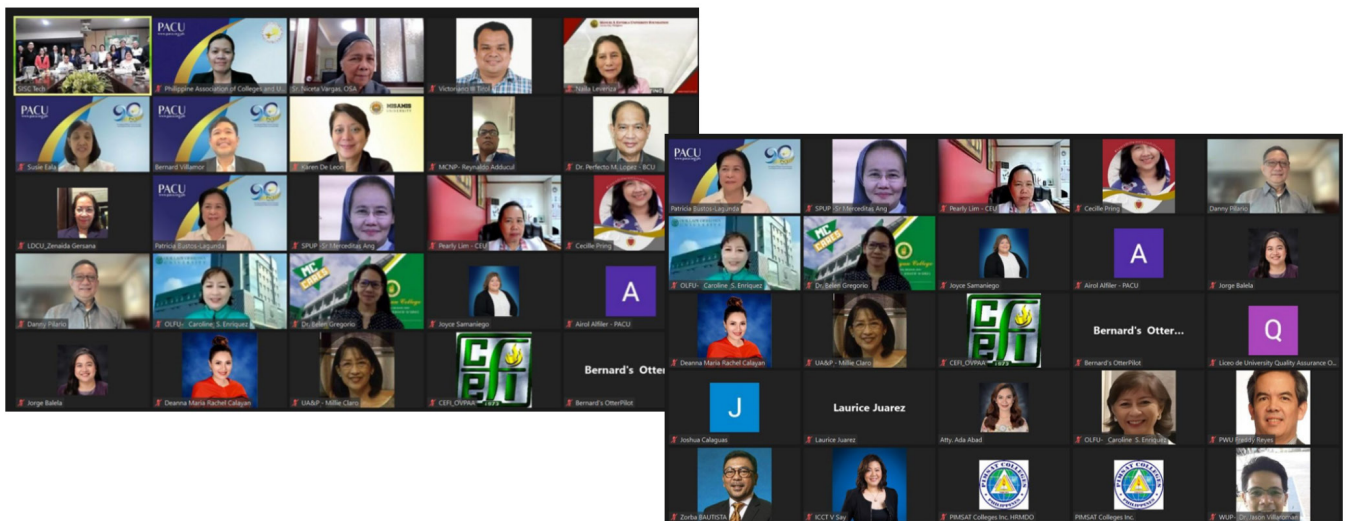
November 17, 2023



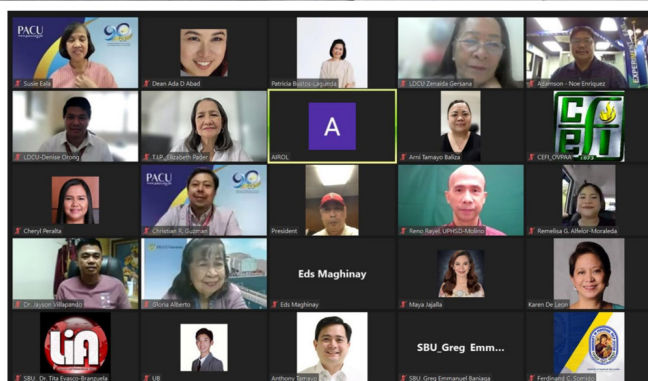
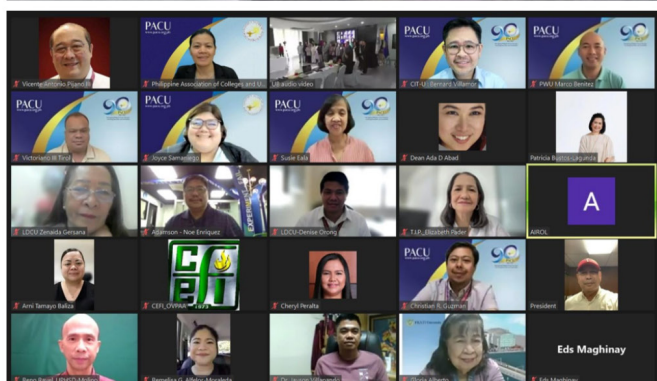
VISAYAS - UNIVERSITY OF BOHOL | Tagbilaran City, Bohol | February 21, 2024



NCR - SOUTHVILLE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AND COLLEGES | Las Pinas City | May 17, 2024

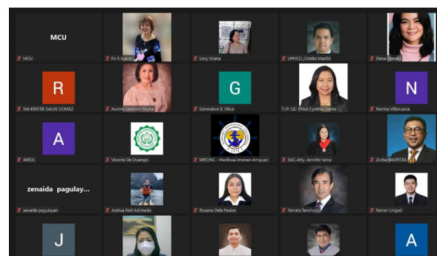
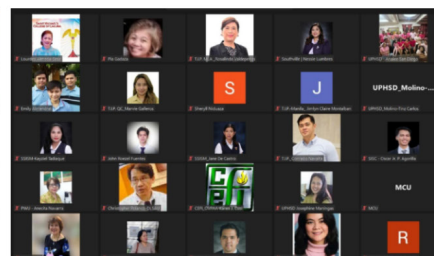


LUZON - UNIVERSITY OF BAGUIO | Baguio City | June 21, 2024



PACUMUSTAHAN AND INFO SESSION ON THE NO PERMIT NO EXAM PROHIBITION ACT AND OTHER BILLS

April 8, 2024



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

EXECOM

October 11, 2023



November 10, 2023



January 12, 2024



February 13, 2024



March 13, 2024



April 10, 2024



May 7, 2024



PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

October 18, 2023



January 17, 2024



February 23, 2024



COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

October 13, 2023



January 17, 2024



March 15, 2024



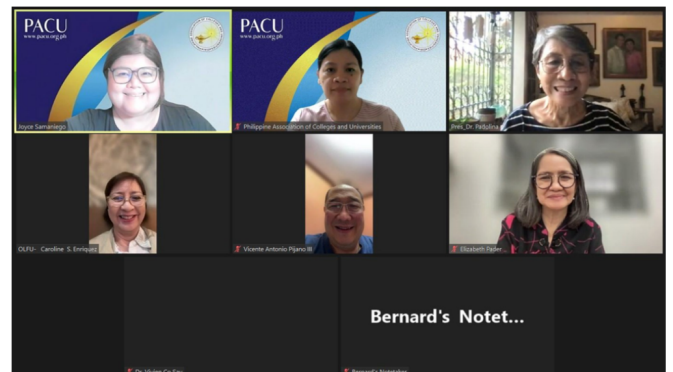
April 17, 2024



May 10, 2024



June 14, 2024



KOREA BENCHMARKING VISIT MEETING

April 26, 2024



KOREA BENCHMARKING VISIT

May 22 - 26, 2024





RESEARCH COMMITTEE

January 24, 2024



PR COMMITTEE

November 30, 2023



March 21, 2024



POLICY COMMITTEE

February 15, 2024



MEETING WITH CAGAYAN PROVINCE SCHOOLS

April 19, 2024



COMMISSION ON CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS MEETING

June 11, 2024



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

February 14, 2024



April 17, 2024



June 18, 2024



VALIDATION VISIT AT NATIONAL UNIVERSITY - MOA

February 6, 2024



VALIDATION VISIT AT NATIONAL UNIVERSITY – LAGUNA

February 6, 2024

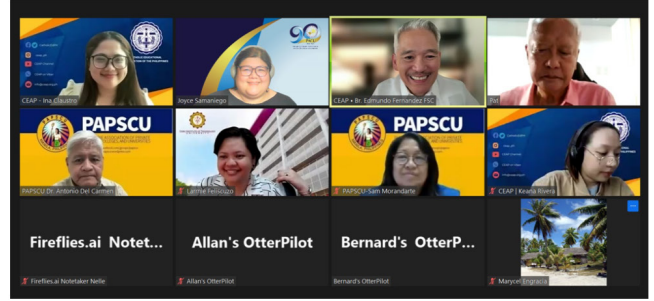


COCOPEA MEETINGS

January 11, 2024



February 5, 2024



February 8, 2024



April 24, 2024



June 15, 2024



CHED VISIONING WORKSHOP

April 12, 2024



DEPED PEO 2ND QUARTERLY CONSULTATION MEETING WITH PRIVATE SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

June 18, 2024



PACU WEBINAR ON THE RISE AND PERILS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

December 13, 2023





HARNESSING AI POTENTIAL: A POLICY WRITESHOP ON ACCEPTABLE USE IN EDUCATION

March 4, 2024



6TH LAMP SUMMIT: LIFELONG LEARNING PATHWAYS REVOLUTIONIZING EDUCATION THROUGH MICROCREDENTIALS AND DIGITAL BADGES

May 31, 2024



FAPE 55th ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER - GRAND PLAZA BALLROOM OF SOFTEL PHILIPPINE PLAZA MANILA, CCP COMPLEX, ROXAS BOULEVARD, PASAY CITY

December 7, 2023



MEETINGS WITH PARTNERS

SYNERGY

October 24, 2023



ALLIANCE SOFTWARE INC.

January 29, 2024



LABSTER-UBISIM

February 2, 2024



PURELEARNING

February 2, 2024



KAHOOT

May 2, 2024



June 18, 2024



TURNITIN

May 3, 2024



REX EDUCATION

May 8, 2024

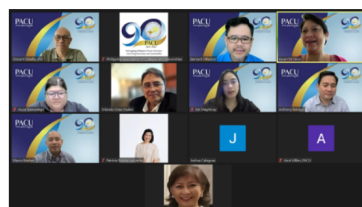


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April 17, 2024

March 8, 2024

May 29, 2024



MERALCO FOUNDATION

June 25, 2024



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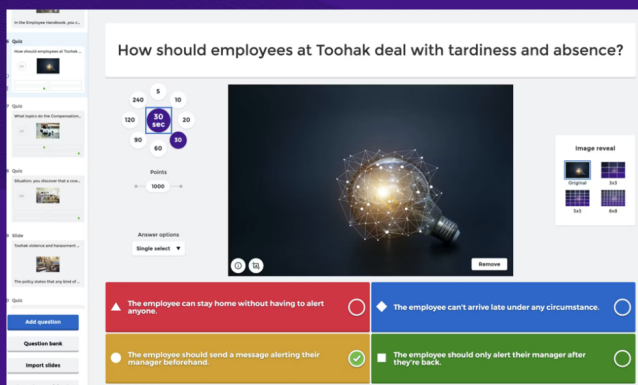
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Question templates for various use cases

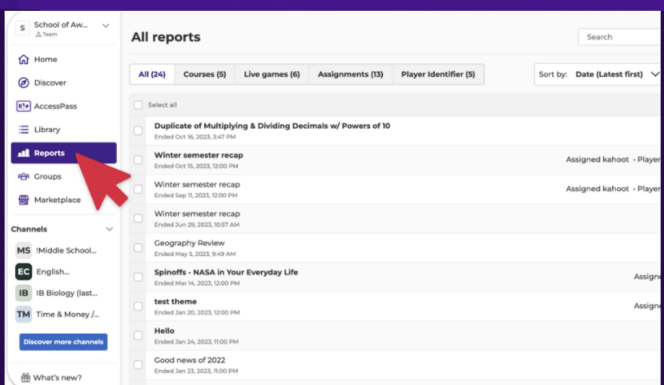
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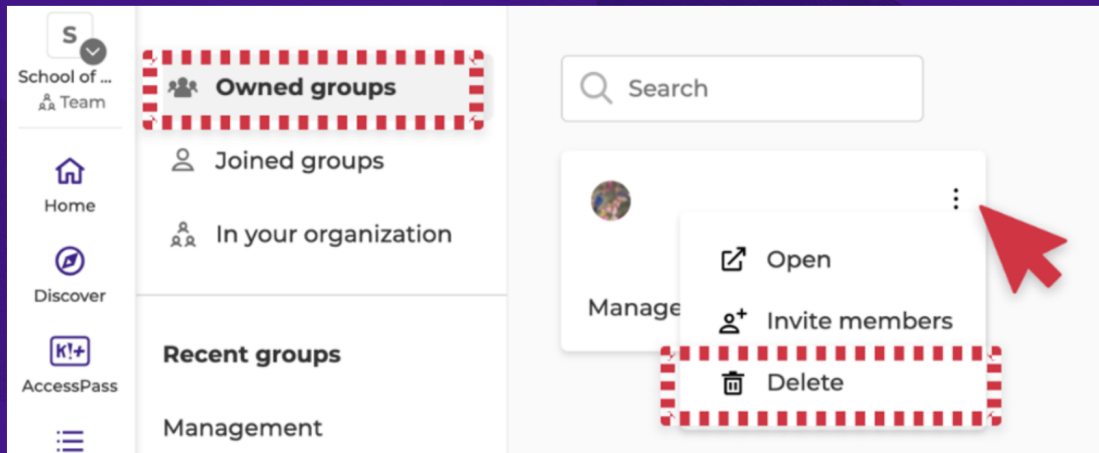
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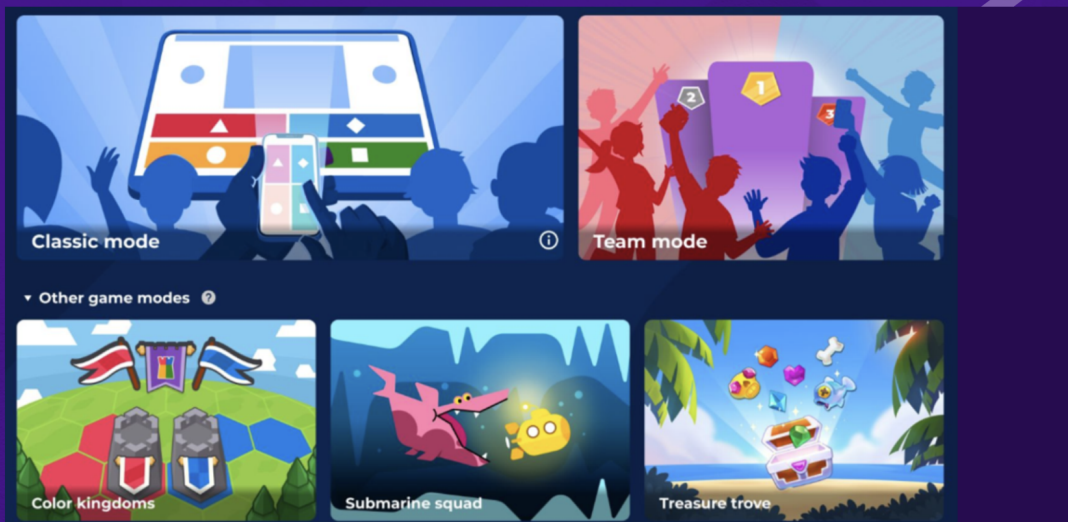
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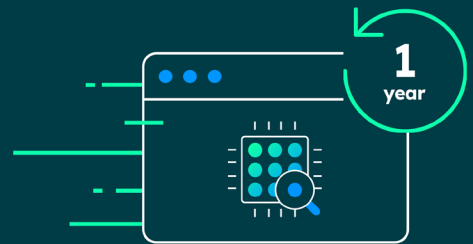
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Results from Turnitin's AI Writing Detection Feature



More than
200 +
MILLION PAPERS
have been reviewed.*



Nearly **half of the students surveyed have used generative AI tools** such as ChatGPT, monthly, weekly or daily. Additionally, the survey** found **75%** of these students said they will continue to use the technology even if faculty or institutions ban it.



Of the over 200 million papers reviewed,*
Turnitin data shows:

22 (~11% of 200+ million) have at least **20** %
MILLION AI writing present*

6 (~3% of 200+ million) have at least **80** %
MILLION AI writing present*

Received three
awards in 1 year



What's next?



Helping show students' "proof of process" with a report summarizing granular data:

- Copy and pasted text
- Typing patterns
- Total construction time
- Draft history

AI writing detection is just one part of a broad, **ever-evolving puzzle**



- Learn more at turnitin.com/solutions/topics/ai-writing
- *As of March 21, 2024.
- **Turnitin was a partner in providing compensation to conduct Tyton's Time for Class 2023 and GenAI in Higher Education reports.



AI writing puzzle

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A project of the PACU Committee on Public Relations

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