

USL NEWSLETTER

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The Official Community Newsletter of the University of Saint Louis, Tuguegarao City, Philippines

CHED grants Autonomous Status to USL anew

by Macekrell T. De la Cruz

The Commission on Higher Education has granted the University of Saint Louis, Tuguegarao City Autonomous Status for the period April 1, 2016 to May 30, 2019 as per CHED Memorandum Order (CMO) No. 20, Series of 2016.

USL has maintained its Autonomous Status since CHED implemented the evaluation of higher education institutions (HEIs) in the entire country in 2002 when the University was still called Saint Louis College of Tuguegarao (SLCT).

USL has an unbroken record of Autonomy (2002-2019) which accounts to the University's status along program and institutional accreditation, sterling

performance in licensure examinations, presence of quality assurance mechanism, among other criteria, according to the University's Acting President, Dr. Delailah B. Valencia, who served as USL's Vice-President for Academics for eight (8) years and ...continued on page 8

USL hosts first gubernatorial debate in Cagayan

by Macekrell T. De la Cruz, Charina D. Vargas and Guiller Ed G. Vega

TUGUEGARAO CITY - The University of Saint Louis (USL) hosted the first gubernatorial debate in Cagayan organized by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) through the leadership of Atty. Michael

Camangeg, Provincial Election Supervisor IV, in partnership with the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP), Philippine National Police (PNP), ...continued on page 10

USL is Center of Dev't in IT Education

by Charina D. Vargas

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) designated the University of Saint Louis as one of the Centers of Development (COD) in Information Technology Education (ITE) as per CHED Memorandum Order (CMO) No. 38, Series of 2015.

The Center of Development (COD) refers to a department within a Higher Education Institution (HEI), which demonstrates the potential to become a Center of Excellence (COE) in the future.

The COD program of the CHED is provided for under Section 8 (f) of RA 7722,

otherwise known as the Higher Education Act of 1994, which states that CHED shall identify, support and develop potential centers of excellence in program areas needed for the development of world-class scholarship, nation building and national development.

The COD program aims to sustain/develop excellence of HEIs by enhancing their teaching, research and service programs to further nation building and national development.

"Last October 13, 2015, all heads of ITE programs who applied for the COD/COE grants were called at the

...continued on page 3



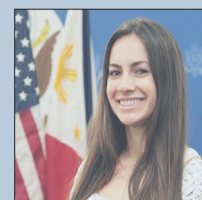
USL sends visiting prof in Myanmar

VLP is a unique teacher mobility program conceived by the United Board to respond to expressed needs of network institutions (p.2)



Louisians come home for 2015 Golden Jubilee get-together

The test of the true Louisian spirit is living out the CICM mission through the testimony of your lives (p.5)



The world is her classroom

If you ever wonder as a teacher if your classroom is the world, then you got to believe that it is possible (p.7)

USL sends visiting prof in Myanmar

by Emmanuel James P. Pattaguan

The University of Saint Louis, in its desire to further widen its reach in Asia, sent off Mr. Herbert Corpuz, the Community Extension Services Director and a faculty of the School of Education, Arts and Sciences



Mr. Corpuz (4th from left) with his students in Myanmar

(SEAS) as visiting professor in Kachin Theological College and Seminary (KTCS), North Myanmar.

Mr. Corpuz's opportunity to be a visiting professor was made possible through the

Visiting Lecturers Program (VLP) of the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia (UBCHEA).

UBCHEA is a Christian organization that works in partnership with higher education institutions in 14 countries and regions of Asia. Founded in 1922, the UBCHEA aims to express values such as justice, reconciliation and harmony between ethnic and religious communities, gender equity, care for the environment, and civil society.

VLP is a unique teacher mobility program conceived by the United Board to

respond to expressed needs of network institutions in the ASEAN region. It seeks to enable experienced teachers from one country to mentor younger teachers in other institutions of another

country. This initiative responds to educational reforms – for better quality teaching and learning, internationalization, and greater academic and cultural integration in the ASEAN Community. The United Board seeks to promote Whole Person Education through

faculty exchanges among its network institutions.

Mr. Corpuz's teaching stint in KTCS is from Nov. 2015 to May 2016. The visiting professor is expected to carry out in KTCS the threefold function of an educator – to instruct, to research and to do extension work.

Foreign Language in USL bolstered in light of ASEAN Integration

by Charina D. Vargas

With the aim of preparing the Louisian graduates in their career path along with the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Integration, the University once again offered a Mandarin Chinese crash course, under the Foreign Language course, with Dr. Peng Fei from China Jiliang University (CJLU) as professor.

Dr. Peng has been teaching in the school for five years already. Unlike his previous stay, this year is different since he taught for approximately a month (from January 12 to February 14, 2016) instead of ten days.

"It was fun and interesting especially our Laoshi (teacher) is from China. The experience is firsthand. I'm fortunate that he is our teacher," remarked by one of Dr. Peng's students, Kristelle Leigh A. Reyes, AB Political Science, of the School of Education, Arts and Sciences.

Although with a limited

duration, "The crash course was found to be very satisfying based on evaluation made," said Dr. Emmanuel James P. Pattaguan, USL Vice President for Academics.

According to Dr. Pattaguan, the inclusion of Foreign Language is beneficial to students, in accordance with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Memorandum Order No. 23, Series of 2010: Inclusion of Foreign Languages as Electives in the Curricula of Higher Education Programs.

Dr. Pattaguan also said that all courses in USL now require Foreign Language effective school year 2014-2015.

Foreign Language course is also taught by Mrs. Perlie Joy C. Tamboa, faculty member of the School of Hospitality and Vocational Education (SHVED), during regular semesters.

Meanwhile, the linkage between USL and CJLU is bound to expand as USL aspires to conduct research partnership with the Chinese university.



Dr. Peng Fei while teaching Mandarin Chinese to Louisians

USL is festival site for NYD '15

by Charina D. Vargas

TUGUEGARAO CITY-- During the National Youth Day 2015 hosted by the Archdiocese of Tuguegarao, the University of Saint Louis (USL) served as one of the four festival sites in the City, Nov. 11-15.

Cagayan State University (CSU) Andrews Campus, Saint Paul University Philippines (SPUP), and University of Cagayan Valley (UCV) were the other designated festival sites.

Some 3,000 delegates joined the annual NYD celebration who were all accommodated by the local foster families in the City and in some neighboring towns.

This year's theme

reflected on "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God [Mt 5:8]."

More than 700 delegates from the dioceses of Bacolod, Bayombong, Cabanatuan, Lucena, Masbate, and Tagum, to name a few, were welcomed in USL.

The Louisian community helped in the preparation of the delegates' activities in plenary sessions, group sharing, holy mass, confession, and rosary that aimed to deepen the faith of the youth, journeying towards intimacy with Christ.

The NYD celebration was made possible through His

...continued on page 4

USL co-organizes int'l research forum with Vietnam University of Commerce

by Emmanuel James P. Pattaguan

The University of Saint Louis co-organized an international research forum held at Vietnam University of Commerce in Hanoi, Vietnam last Nov. 15-18, 2015.

school representatives from Canada, China, France, Korea, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The Vice-President for Academics, Dr. Emmanuel James P. Pattaguan, led to

Mrs. Karen A. Catacutan (Research Coordinator of the School of Business Administration and Accounting and Member of the University Research Pool).

Four USL papers were accepted as part of the conference proceedings: *Exploring the Socio-Economic Life of Sidewalk Vendors* by Darin John C. Tindowen, MA and Luisa B. Aquino, MIT; *Informal Economy: A Closer Look at Its Contribution to Urban Gross Income* by Karen A. Catacutan, MBA; *Drawn by the Horse, Drawn to Life: The Kalesa of the Philippines as an Informal Economy* by Emmanuel James P. Pattaguan, Ph.D. and Karen A. Catacutan; and *Street Vending: Survival Strategy of Unemployed Households* by Farida F. Tallud, DBM.



Left to right: Mrs. Catacutan, Dr. Tallud, Mrs. Aquino, and Dr. Pattaguan

Vietnam University of Commerce, a partner institution of USL, was the main organizer of the conference.

Bannering the theme "Informal Economy Practice and Emerging Issues in Economies," the conference brought together several

the said conference the other USL delegates, namely: Mrs. Luisa B. Aquino (Dean of the School of Information and Computing Sciences and concurrent Acting Director of the University Research Center), Dr. Farida F. Tallud (Human Resource Management Officer), and

URC hosts Multidisciplinary Research Conference

by Ferdinand N. Cortez and Eladio Martin S. Gumabay

To beef up research collaboration across the provinces, the University of Saint Louis' University Research Center (URC) organized a Multidisciplinary Research Conference last Dec. 1-2, 2015 at the Bulwagang Teodulfo Domingo, University of Saint Louis, Tuguegarao City.

With its theme, "Trends in Global Health, Sustainable Education and Business, and Innovative Engineering and Information Technology," the conference convened policy leaders, graduate and undergraduate students, teachers, experts, and researchers for the promotion of a collaborative

research within and across disciplines to address local, regional, and national concerns.

A total of 112 participating delegates from Cagayan Valley Computer and Information Technology (Santiago City), Catanduanes State University (Bicol Region), International School of Asia and the Pacific (Cagayan Valley), Medical Colleges of Northern Philippines (Cagayan Valley), University of Saint Louis, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Region 02, and registered nurses from healthcare institutions who are taking up their master's degree, were present

during the conference.

Dr. Emmanuel James P. Pattaguan, USL VP for Academics, emphasized the need for sharing together ideas from different disciplines. He was optimistic that USL will later on host an international research forum with its linkages with foreign institutions.

Meanwhile, Dr. Teoticia C. Taguibao, CHED Region 02 Director, delivered her keynote speech, summarizing the three major functions in the academe: instruction, extension and research. She stressed about honesty in conducting research.

Dr. Rosula San Jose-Reyes, Chairperson of the

...continued on page 9

USL is Center of Dev't in IT Education

...continued from page 1

CHED Central Office for the IT Technical Panel's verification of documents they earlier submitted. A visit to USL was also conducted by CHED last Nov. 20, 2015 to evaluate our application documents," said Mrs. Luisa B. Aquino, Dean of the School of Information and Computing Sciences (SICS).

"The IT Education in USL has the following merits that made it qualify for the COD grant: presence of curriculum complying with Outcomes-Based Education (OBE) standards, regular upgrading of laboratory facilities, presence of licensed software, sustained extension and linkages with academic and industry partners and professional organizations, and having library collection and facilities that are compliant with COD requirements," Mrs. Aquino further said.

Meanwhile, according to Dr. Emmanuel James P. Pattaguan, USL VP for Academics, "The University can get financial assistance from CHED for proposed projects, programs and/or activities that will strengthen IT Education in the school and the Region, where USL is expected to share its expertise, explaining the benefits of USL as a COD grantee.

How USL in turn responds to such privilege, he also said, "The University will ensure to live up to the expectations of CHED and hence will continually improve."

USL is among the five HEIs in Region 02 granted with COD in ITE. Per CHED, the designation of CODs is valid for three years effective Jan. 2016 to Dec. 31, 2018.

Two faculty researches published in refereed journals

by Charina D. Vargas and Ferdinand N. Cortez

Dr. Eladio Martin S. Gumabay, USL University Research Center (URC) Assistant Director, and Mr. Darin Jan C. Tindowen, College faculty member, had their research papers published in refereed journals.

Dr. Gumabay's paper, *Ethico-Spiritual Caring in Nursing: A Metasynthesis*, was printed in the Philippine Journal of Nursing Education, Volume 25, No. 1, October 2015 Issue.

According to Dr. Gumabay, ethico-spiritual caring has not gained specific attention

in nursing. Thus, his study aimed to synthesize qualitative literature, explicating the direct connectedness between ethical care and spiritual care.

Dr. Gumabay used Polit and Beck's (2013) framework of metasynthesis and Noblit and Hare's method of qualitative data analysis.

The metasynthesis of six eligible qualitative research studies that Dr. Gumabay used reflect the three key themes of ethico-spiritual concerns, which are: interpersonal expressions, professional vocation and transcendental

connection.

In Dr. Gumabay's paper, it is recommended that student-nurses and professional nurses constantly render full and observable commitment in the ethico-spiritual dimension of care.

On the other hand, Mr. Tindowen's paper, *The Catholicity of the University of Saint Louis*, was published in the Asia Pacific Journal of Multidisciplinary Research, Volume 3, No. 5, December 2015 Issue.

Mr. Tindowen's study aimed to assess the level of Catholicity of USL along with the five key area standards: communicated vision and mission, religious curriculum, prayer and liturgy integration, service and social justice, and ecumenical initiatives.

Using descriptive survey and focus group discussion, the study involved a total of 2,620 respondents composed of students, alumni, administrators, teaching staff, and non-teaching staff of the University.

Results show that USL manifests a very high level of Catholicity along the five key area standards.

Moreover, results of the independent sample T-test and Analysis of Variance test reveal that gender, religious affiliations, and student's educational level affect the level of Catholicity of USL.

As a result of the study, a three-year sustainability program for the Catholicity of the University has been developed.

6 Louisians attend Nat'l DAPE seminar-workshop

by Cristine Joy T. Castro

To continue upholding one of the University's core values – Social Awareness and Involvement, the University of Saint Louis, through the National Service Training Program (NSTP), sent five of its students and one faculty member to represent the University in the National Seminar-Workshop on Drug Abuse Prevention and Education (DAPE) held at the Venus Parkview Hotel, Baguio City, Dec. 9-11, 2015.

The five students were Marciano Abay (BSCE-1), Ian Castillo (BSMT-1), Cristine Joy Castro (ABLM-1), Darielle Maranan (BSMT-1), and Krizzia Suyu (BSAc-1) accompanied by Mr. Aldwin Tuliao (NSTP Facilitator).

During the seminar-workshop, resource speakers from the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), and the Association of Advocates Against Drugs (A³D), Inc. talked about various topics, namely: Government Policies and Programs on DAPE; The

Philippine Scenario on Drug Abuse (Situation and Statistics); Laws and Social Legislations on Drugs in the Philippines; and the Psychological, Physical and Medical Effects of Dangerous Drugs.

Key points from the lectures include: the national drug abuse situation 2008 survey which recorded an alarming 1.7 million dangerous drugs users; the R.A. 9165 which is an act instituting the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 and aims on the implementation and enforcement of anti-drug abuse policies and programs; and the harmful effects of drug abuse which are generally focused on the emotional stability of the user.

Meanwhile, included in the seminar-workshop were the On-the-Spot Essay Writing and Poster-Making Contests which tested the writing and visual skills of the representatives of the different participating schools in interpreting the theme: "Kaya ko 'to ng walang droga." Among the participants

of the contests, USL team soared as Castro won second place in Essay Writing while Maranan outdid the other artists in Poster-Making, garnering the first place.

The works of Castro and Maranan will be included in the compilation of the winning pieces starting from the first run of the seminar, since according

to the organizers, the top three entries in both competitions were gathered and shall be used in other activities that will be established by them.

The seminar-workshop was already the seventh run succeeding other six runs held in the different parts of the country in line with the aim of DDB, ...continued on page 7

USL is festival site for NYD '15...continued from page 2

Excellency Rev. Fr. Sergio L. Utleg, DD, Archbishop of Tuguegarao; Rev. Fr. Ricardo L. Baccay, DD, Auxiliary

Bishop of Tuguegarao; and Fr. Kristian Noel A. Sibbaluca, Youth Director of the Archdiocese of Tuguegarao.





Louisians come home for 2015 Golden Jubilee get-together

by Aldwin M. Addun

An estimated 800-strong crowd of Louisian alumni toppled age barriers and communed as one as they celebrated their indomitable blue-and-white spirit during the Grand Alumni Homecoming on December 30, 2015 at the University of Saint Louis (USL) Campus. Defying intimidations from an unpredictable weather, the crowd joined as one to reminisce their Louisian years and relive their high school and college moments

in a festive mood of the traditional barrio fiesta theme set by the sponsors, the Saint Louis College of Tuguegarao (SLCT) Batch 1990, who were celebrating their silver anniversary as members of the alumni community. The homecoming started with a mass officiated by Reverend Father Ferdinand Baculi, a USL alumnus himself. "It is heartwarming to come home to Saint Louis," he said in his homily. Father Baculi challenged

the alumni members to be Louisians in their thoughts, words and deeds. "The test of the true Louisian spirit is living out the CICM mission through the testimony of your lives," he said. Father Baculi celebrated the mass with Reverend Father Gilbert Sales, also an alumnus and current President of Saint Louis University (Baguio City) and concurrent President of Saint Louis College (San Fernando City, La Union), and with Father Rex Salvilla, CICM Liaison Officer in USL. A program was held at the USL open stage with the

alumni members celebrating to the accompaniment of soundtracks from the decades of the 70s, 80s and the 90s. There were several prizes raffled during the program that culminated in a mini concert by a local band, whose lead singer was also an alumnus. Dr. Delailah Valencia, USL Acting President, welcomed the alumni guests and visitors and continued to present the achievements of the University. Also present was Tuguegarao City Mayor Jefferson Soriano, a member of SLCT Batch 71. *...continued on page 7*

USL shares Christmas gifts in Tuguegarao City

by Charina D. Vargas

Expressing generosity during the Christmas season, the University of Saint Louis (USL) conducted its 25th Alay Pasko Tradition last Dec. 18, 2015 giving Christmas gifts to identified beneficiaries in Tuguegarao City. There were 194 recipients from USL such as student assistants, Center for Culture and the Arts (CCA) members, Dinggin Ka Learning Center (DKLC) pupils, Maintenance staff, Regional Manpower Services (RMS) janitors, and streetsweepers, while 200 ward patients from the Cagayan Valley Medical Center (CVMC) and People's Emergency Hospital, Tuguegarao City. Angelita P. Leonud, 23, one of the beneficiaries, cheerfully

said that the grocery given was useful since spending for Christmas celebration is expensive. "Pinagsalu-saluhan namin noong Noche Buena! Nagpapasalamat ako kasi nishare nila [USL] yung biyaya sa amin." "The recipients were really grateful to the University when faculty members handed to them the goods because for them, the gift-giving activity was one way of uplifting their morale during the difficult stage of their confinement in a hospital. Furthermore, this activity emphasized the real essence of Christmas," said Mrs. Diana T. Dalman, Community Extension Service (CES) Director, Officer-in-Charge, who spearheaded the program together with Fr.

Thiago O. Silva, CICM, USL Vice President for Mission and Identity/ Chaplain. According to Mrs. Dalman, this year's Alay Pasko is different, for it is the first time that USL had reached out to ward patients in hospitals and granted packages of gifts to student assistants and CCA performers. The fund came from USL's Mission Collection, students' Community Service Fee, and employees' monetary donations. Fr. Silva gave his remark on the Alay Pasko. "I was really impressed and happy. The Alay Pasko was also meaningful because it was more than the giving, but it was also a manifestation of friendship in celebration of Christmas." On his initial plan to strengthen the extension programs organized by the University, Fr. Silva said, "First,

I want to work in partnership with all who are involved as one institution. Second, is to become more aware of the needs of the people outside USL and what we can do for them. Third, is to let know that the CES Office is not just an office conducting extension services but also where ministry work is exemplified." Moreover, the USL High School Academic Extension Office (HS AEO) led by Mrs. Melvie T. Mabbonag, HS Academic Extension Coordinator, simultaneously conducted its annual Alay Pasko at the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) at Cataggaman Pardo, Tuguegarao City, rendering goods, usable clothes and fruits to 235 detainees. The Outreach Fund of the HS AEO along with the personal contributions of teachers and students was spent.

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Embodying the CICM Mission and Identity

by Charina D. Vargas

The University of Saint Louis (USL) as one of the schools of the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Congregatio Immaculati Cordis Mariae or CICM) in the Philippines continues to embody the CICM mission and identity.

Seeing the potent role of schools for Christian evangelization, the CICM, an international community of religious missionaries dedicated to the Incarnate Word under the aegis of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, has been massively influential in the Philippines since 1907 through their educational apostolate.

Recently, the Office of the Vice President for Mission and Identity (VPMI) has been created, an office common among all CICM schools in the Philippines, as a mandate from the CICM Philippine Provincial Government through the initiative of Rev. Fr. Ramon P. Caluza, CICM, the CICM-RP Provincial Superior.

The first appointed VPVI in USL is Rev. Fr. Thiago O. Silva, CICM, who is also the current University Chaplain. Together with the Center for Christian Formation and the Campus Ministry Coordinator, Miss Thelma C. Baricaua, the Office of the VPVI completed some notable accomplishments for the school year 2015-2016, to foster the University's mission and core values that bespeak the CICM mission and identity.



Rev. Fr. Silva, CICM

Physical Developments

Last November 27, 2015, when the USL community and some CICM fathers from Region II commemorated the CICM Day in USL, the newly structured Theophile Verbist statue located adjacent to the CICM Building was blessed. According to Miss Baricaua, the image reminds the Louisian community to acknowledge the "missionary spirit" exemplified by the CICM founder.



Fr. Theophile Verbist Statue

Another development



Good Shepherd Chapel

was the naming of the University Chapel into "Good Shepherd Chapel" last December 8, 2015. The Chapel's name was inspired by the example of Christ who "lays down his life for his sheep." The Statue of the Good Shepherd placed on the front of the chapel was procured years back with the help of the late Fr. Clement Daelman, CICM, and his family.

Mission Fund Drive

As reported by the Office of the Vice President for Mission and Identity/ University Chaplain this school year 2015-2016, the Mission Collection Drive for SY 2014-2015 amounted to P2,528,397.95 which was distributed to the CICM Mission Stations of CICM Philippines and CICM Abroad (P1,717,157.95), for Special Education Assistance (P350,000.00), for the Pontifical Mission Society care of Archbishop Sergio L. Utleg, D.D. (P250,000.00), for the CICM Animation (P111, 240.00), and for the Alay Pasko of the University of Saint Louis (P100,000.00).

Recollections by CICM Priests

Being faithful to the Christian formation of the Louisian community, Fr. Silva invited some of his fellow CICM fathers as recollection masters in the persons of Rev. Fr. Caluza, CICM, Rev. Fr. Marcio Martins, CICM (taking up his master's degree in Brazil), and Rev. Fr. Nemesio Huesca, CICM (Director, CICM Philippine Mission Center). They



Rev. Fr. Caluza, CICM



Rev. Fr. Martins, CICM



Rev. Fr. Huesca, CICM

all presented recollection lectures and shared their experiences as missionaries.

CICM General Superior's canonical visit in USL

Rev. Fr. Timothy W. Atkin, CICM, the General Superior of the entire CICM Congregation in the world, had a canonical visit in USL during the Easter Sunday Mass Celebration last March 27, 2016 at the Good Shepherd Chapel.

"It's a blessing that the General Superior celebrated the Easter Sunday with us together with other CICM Fathers... a very rare occasion," shared by Miss Baricaua.

During his visit, Fr. Atkin was welcomed by Rev. Fr. Rex C. Salvilla, CICM Liaison Officer to USL, Rev. Fr. Silva, CICM, English Language Fellow Miss Cerise Santoro, some members of the Administration, and the campus ministers.



Rev. Fr. Atkin, CICM

"His visit is an affirmation of our mission and identity as CICM institution," Rev. Fr. Silva said.

"Let us always carry out our very Louisian identity and spirituality which is serving one another, supporting one another, growing in faith and academics, and embracing our vocation. Once a Louisian, always a missionary," Fr. Silva also said expressing his message to the Louisian community to continually embody their mission and identity.

Louisians come home for 2015 Golden Jubilee get-together

...continued from page 5

Mayor Soriano said that Louisians are making their marks in different fields, and he is proud to be joined by several Louisians in the field of public service, mentioning Batch 90 President and Tuguegarao City Councilor Bienvenido de Guzman, along with Board Member Christian Guzman, also of Batch 90.

Unmindful of the imminent rain, the crowd

of Batch 84. "We enjoyed a lot. Thank you, Batch 90."

Indeed, the party reinforced the camaraderie of the alumni members in the light of the efforts of the officers of the USLT Alumni Association to create a stronger organization.

"This event gives me reason to come back often to USL. I never thought it feels so good to come home and be with my Louisian



Members of the host Batch 90 showcase their dance

actively joined the dancing and singing, even taking to the stage in a rare chance to become young and carefree again. Many of them professionals, they figuratively took off their coats and shoes to bond with their school and their peers, leaving cares and woes behind even for just a day.

At the sidelines were whole pigs and calves roasting over open fire waiting to be enjoyed by an exultant crowd.

The host batch also gave tribute to the honoree batch of 1975 and to their teachers way back in high school.

"This is one of the most memorable homecomings I have attended," commented Olivia Turingan, a member

family," bared Colonel Jacob Thaddeus Obligado of the Philippine Army who was joining for the first time.

"I am humbled," confessed an overseas worker, also on her first homecoming. "To think that I told myself there was nothing to go back to."

The get-together brought out many reactions and emotions among the alumni, but the USLTAA is hopeful that all these will lead to a closer and more relevant association that is more involved in the University's quest for its place among the stellar academic institutions.

The event was capped with a magnificent pyromusical display at around six o'clock in the evening,

6 Louisians attend Nat'l DAPE seminar-workshop ...continued from page 4

A³D, and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to continue promoting, especially in the youth, the advocacy campaign against dangerous drugs.

Dr. Adelaida Fronda, President of the A³D Inc., ended her message emphasizing the DDB's "Kaya ko 'to ng walang droga" campaign and thus

The world is her classroom

by Charina D. Vargas

If you ever wonder as a teacher if your classroom is the world, then you got to believe that it is possible.

You see her beaming with bright smile, her loveliness that flaunts candidly and her impressive mien that overall equates with "beauty and brain." This foreign lady from the United States of America who has been acculturated to the Louisiana community since October last year, is University of Saint Louis' English Language (EL) Fellow, Miss Cerise A. Santoro.

She is known by students as the EL Fellow assigned to USL, by her colleagues as hardworking and a sought-after resource speaker in training and workshops, and to her family, a loving and adventurous daughter.

December 2008 was when Ms. Santoro finished her Associate of Arts Degree in Liberal Arts in Social and Behavioral Sciences at Mount San Antonio College, Walnut, California, USA. She continued her studies finishing Bachelor of Arts in Education and Integrative Studies, Liberal Studies at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona graduating in May 2011. Two years after, and while teaching, she finished her Master of Arts in Education and Integrative Studies: Curriculum and Instruction at the same university.

While pursuing her master's degree, she taught in public schools in California then



Cerise A. Santoro, EL Fellow

became an ESL (English as Second Language) Instructor at Cal Poly English Language Institute (CELI) in California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (2012-2015) leading several workshops for teachers on second and foreign language pedagogy, methodology, program management, and professional development. She taught to different nationalities.

"I was a teacher of international students from Brazil, Cameroon, China, India, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Laos, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Syria, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Vietnam."

Her inspiration to become a teacher emanated from her quest of following the steps of her grandparents who were teachers and international explorers.

"My grandmother, grandfather and great grandmother inspired me to become a teacher. They all would show me postcards from different places. ...continued on page 9

challenging the student leaders and young advocates to circulate in their respective universities and towns the aspects of DAPE and the key points they learned from the lectures.

Moreover, Dr. Fronda also advised the participants to propagate and develop the ideas

formed during the event into things which would contribute to the fulfillment of a drug-resistant and drug-free Philippines.

The seminar-workshop carried the theme: "Against All Dopes: Intensifying Initiatives against Substance Abuse."

CHED grants Autonomous Status to USL anew

...continued from page 1

Vice-President for Planning, Development, Quality Assurance and Accreditation (VP-PDQAA) for four (4) years.

The recent grant of autonomy and deregulated status to deserving HEIs was made by CHED in view of the implementation of CMO No. 46, Series of 2012 titled "Policy-Standard to Enhance Quality Assurance (QA) in Philippine Higher Education Through an Outcomes-based and Typology-based QA."

As per CMO No. 46, Series of 2012, vertical typology is the classification of HEIs according to three (3) elements of quality:

1) the alignment and consistency of the learning environment with the institution's vision, mission, and goals; 2) demonstration of exceptional learning and service outcomes; and 3) the development of a culture of quality. The first element is related to the horizontal type of the HEI while the last two are related to level of program excellence and institutional quality.

Private higher education institutions (PHEIs) are classified vertically as: 1) autonomous HEIs, 2) deregulated HEIs, and 3) regulated HEIs. Public higher education institutions likewise have corresponding vertical classifications.

Vertical classification is based on the assessment of the HEI's Commitment to Excellence and Institutional Sustainability and Enhancement. The former mainly considers program

excellence while the latter is largely based on institutional quality.

As per CMO No. 19, Series of 2016, among USL's benefits as an Autonomous University is exemption from regular monitoring and evaluation by CHED. However, CHED may *motu proprio* conduct verification, monitoring or investigation activities in cases when there are evidences or reports of a general erosion of quality and/or gross violation of existing laws, rules and regulations, that adversely affect the good standing of the PHEI as a reputable educational institution.

Presently, USL has six Level IV programs (Accountancy, Business Administration, Civil Engineering, Liberal Arts, Elementary Teacher Education, and Secondary Teacher Education); one Level III program (Electrical Engineering); three Level

II programs (Information Technology, Computer Science, and High School); and two Level I (Nursing and Elementary programs), all of which were granted by the Federation of Accrediting Agencies of the Philippines (FAAP) through the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU).

USL also enjoys the grant of Institutional Accreditation from FAAP. Moreover, the University is Center of Development in Information Technology Education.

"All the feats bestowed to the University are the outcomes of the committed efforts of the administration, faculty, students, and non-teaching staff in their continuing quest for quality, and such efforts are duly blessed by the Divine Providence," further said by Dr. Valencia.

Louisians bag championship in UP Sinniriban

by Diana Rose M. Siringan

The year 2015 is a breakthrough for the USL-Elementary Department as it reigned overall champion in the UP Sinniriban conducted by UP Anna Na Cagayan, an organization of Cagayano students in the University of

the Philippines-Diliman, on Dec.16- 17, 2015 at Solana South Central School, Solana, Cagayan.

With the theme: "Think, Believe, Igniting Passions, Living Dreams," the two-day activity aimed to promote social and cultural consciousness while

enhancing and testing the elementary students' intellectual and artistic capabilities.

The organization conducted several contests: a multi-field Quiz Bee, On-the-spot Poster-making, Essay Writing, Impromptu Speaking, *Pagsulat ng Sanaysay* (essay writing in Filipino), *Dagliang Talumpatian* (impromptu speaking in Filipino), Spelling Bee, and Let's Volt In (a game applying the concepts of force and equilibrium).

Raphael Paulo B. Calubaquib, Cesar Paul T. Quilang, and Zio C. Vela represented USL in the final round

of the Quiz Bee and won first place.

Meanwhile, James Benedict C. Tan (Impromptu Speaking), Rica Allianah M. Nool (On-the-spot Poster-making), and Reese Chantal A. Calucag (Essay Writing in English) all reaped first place.

Other Louisian winners were: Zio C. Vela (second in Spelling Bee), Niño Ricofrelle P. Dannug (third in Essay Writing in English), and Von Irmann Nicholas F. Tallud (third in *Dagliang Talumpatian*).

With the individual awards garnered by the pupils, the USL team went home with the overall championship title besting 17 other participating schools in Cagayan.

The USL team was coached by Mrs. Rina D. Andal, Mrs. Maria Dinky M. Lim, and Miss Diana Rose M. Siringan.



The Louisian winners and coaches pose with the facilitators of the event.

Uy wins 5th place in Nat'l Press Confab

by Diana Rose M. Siringan

Abigail I. Uy, a grade V pupil of the University of Saint Louis, soared during the National Schools Press Conference (NSPC) held at Notre Dame University, Koronadal City, South Cotabato, Feb. 22-26, 2016.

Among the 54 representatives from different schools in the country, Uy was awarded as fifth in News Writing English, Elementary

level.

The five-day NSPC with the theme: "The Role of the 21st Century Campus Journalism in Upholding Good Governance and Leadership" aimed to harness the aptitude of the campus journalists and to search for the outstanding young journalists from different schools all over the Philippines.

Earlier during the Tuguegarao City Division

Schools Press Conference (DSPC), Uy ranked second in same event qualifying her to participate in the Regional Schools Press Conference (RSPC), during which she bagged a gold medal and certificate making her advance in the national level.

Uy's coach is Miss Diana Rose M. Siringan, Elementary English Coordinator and adviser of the school paper *The Louisian Angel*.



Abigail I. Uy

URC hosts Multidisciplinary Research Conference

...continued from page 3

Electronics, Computer, and Communications Engineering department of the School of Science and Engineering of Ateneo de Manila University, presented her topic, "Conducting Interdisciplinary Research."

Dr. Reyes said that combining varying disciplines can help propose solutions in improving the quality of life. For example, the fields of Medicine and Electronics were combined to produce an artificial arm.

Ms. Lilan D. Marasigan, Senior Economic Development Specialist of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Region II, presented the Regional Research Development Agenda (RRDA) 2016-2022, setting a framework for research activities consistent with the thrusts and priorities of the region.

The second day was allotted for the presenters. The presenters were: Christian Mark F. Cammayo et al.: *Anti-Diabetic Effect of Avocado (Persea Americana mill.) Ethanolic Leaf Extract in Alloxan-Induced Mice*; Saila Mae S. de Francia et al.: *Fecal Coliform Analysis*

of Vended Powdered Juices Sold Outside the University of Saint Louis Tuguegarao; Pauline Kay B. Mangada et al.: *In Constant Pursuit for Normalizing Serum Cholesterol: An Antioxidant Property of Lycopene in Tomato*; Jofel T. Unday et al.: *The Relevance of Jean Piaget's Cognitive Development Theory*; Martina D. Daquioag and Herbert S. Corpuz: *The University of Saint Louis Experience of Service Learning in Teaching Indigenous People and Inclusive Education*; Dr. Jaymund M. Floranza: *Inclusive Education in the Division of Catanduanes*; Joseph S. Ventura: *ISLA: Itawit Simple Linguist Assistant*; Diane Jenalyn B. Datul: *Viral Social Media Marketing: Rapid Information Diffusion through Tipping Point*; Dr. Marita G. Sanchez and Aiza D. Pastrana: *Brand Awareness: Basis for Higher Education Institution's Branding Program Plan*; Jan Lei Ezekiel T. Balisi et al.: *Trashmart: Touch Less, Talking and Bin Detection System*; and Jevico C. Telan et al.: *Robot-Assisted Charitable Search and Rescue for Trapped Victims under Rubble after an Earthquake*.

At the plenary workshop, Dr. Eladio Martin S. Gumabay,

The world is her classroom

...continued from page 7

My grandmother suggested I try teaching. I took her advice, and it was the best decision I ever made."

Embarking her teaching career abroad as an EL Fellow

To expand her teaching career enthused by her grandparents, she went through an arduous application to join the English Language Fellow Program, a program funded by the United States Department of State that sends highly qualified and experienced US educators in the field of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) abroad to assist US embassies

in keeping quality of the English language programs.

Because of her expertise in teacher training and curriculum development, she was accepted in the EL Fellow Program. Her first work overseas is to teach and foster the English pedagogy in University of Saint Louis (USL), Tuguegarao City, until August 2016.

"Through the program, I am privileged to share my professional expertise, hone my skills, and gain international and cultural experience. My goal is to model and demonstrate up-to-date TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) classroom practices that help foster thoughtful and responsible behavior in students and teachers in English."

...continued on page 11

URC Assistant Director, discussed "A Systematic Method of Gathering Literature," explaining its similarities to qualitative research and its dissimilarities to meta-analysis. In his talk,

he cited his paper entitled *Ethico-Spiritual Caring in Nursing: A Metasynthesis*, which was published in the Philippine Journal of Nursing Education (PJNE) Vol. 25, No. 1, October 2015 Issue.



FAAP grants new accreditation status to 3 USL programs

by Macekrell T. De la Cruz and Charina Vargas



The Federation of Accrediting Agencies of the Philippines (FAAP) has recently granted Level III Accredited Status to the Electrical Engineering (EE) program and Level II Accredited Status to the Information Technology (IT) and Computer Science (CS) programs of the University of Saint Louis for meeting the standards and fulfilling all requirements given by the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU), an agency that assesses the quality of an educational institution.

As per PAASCU reference, the EE program shall have the following Level III benefits and incentives: a) all the benefits

for Level I/II (The next paragraph provides the Level II benefits.); b) authority to offer new courses allied to existing Level III courses without need for prior approval, provided that CHED Regional Office 02 is duly informed; and c) privilege to apply for authority to offer new graduate programs, open learning/distance education, extension classes and to participate in the transnational education.

On the other hand, the IT and CS programs shall have the following benefits of Level II accredited programs: a) full administrative deregulation, provided that reports of promotion of students and lists of graduates are available for review by CHED at all

times; b) financial deregulation in terms of setting tuition and other school fees and charges; c) authority to revise the curriculum without CHED approval provided that CHED and Professional Regulation Commission minimum requirements and guidelines, where applicable, are complied with and the revised curriculum is submitted to CHED Regional Office 02.

Other benefits of Level II accreditation include: a) authority to graduate students from accredited courses or programs of study without prior approval of the CHED and without need for Special Orders; b) priority in the awards of grants/subsidies of funding assistance from CHED-Higher Education Development Fund (HEDF) for scholarships and faculty development, facilities improvement and other development programs; c) right to use on its [the institution's] publications or advertisements the word "ACCREDITED" pursuant to

CHED policies and rules; and lastly, d) limited visitation, inspection and/or supervision by CHED supervisory personnel or representatives.

The new status granted to the EE program is valid until Nov. 2019 whereas the new status of the IT and CS programs is until Dec. 2020.

USL has other PAASCU-accredited programs: Accountancy, Business Administration, Civil Engineering, Liberal Arts, Elementary and Secondary Teacher Education with Level IV Accredited Status, the highest level accreditation; Nursing with Accredited Status; High School Program with Level II Reaccredited Status; and Elementary Program with Accredited Status. Moreover, USL has the distinction of having been awarded Institutional Accreditation from FAAP for the University's "exemplary accomplishments, laudable practices, and meritorious record of excellence."

USL hosts first gubernatorial debate in Cagayan

...continued from page 1

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), April 22, 2016 at the James Ter Meer Gymnasium.

The four debaters each seeking the gubernatorial seat are: Atty. Cristina "Tintin" Antonio, daughter of incumbent Cagayan Gov. Atty. Alvaro Antonio and legal adviser to different sectors in Cagayan; Mr. Leonides "Odi" Fausto, the current vice governor of Cagayan; Mr. Rodol Dupaya Gerez, a teacher dubbed as the "Agila ng Cagayan" and whose popularity aroused in Facebook; and Mr. Manuel "Manny" Mamba, a former municipal mayor of Tuao, Cagayan and current outgoing secretary of the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office (PLLO).



Atty. Antonio enumerated programs for the youth, Mr. Fausto emphasized the empowerment of barangays, Mr. Gerez stressed on free education, and Mr. Mamba pointed out his administration's move to improve health services in the

province if elected governor.

The candidate-debaters also gave their views and stand on agriculture, climate change, disaster risk management, employment generation, and on the K-12 Program.

The issues on black sand

mining, *jueteng*, politics of patronage and dependency, and corruption were also tackled in the debate.

Spiritual and moral recovery among leaders in Cagayan was further covered in the debate.

Reverend Fr. Edgardo "Gary" Agcaoili, Vicar General of Archdiocese of Tuguegarao and PPCRV Chair, and two anchors from radio stations in Tuguegarao City, were the moderators of the debate.

The debate was broadcast through local media outlets.



Antonio

Fausto

Gerez

Mamba

The world is her classroom

...continued from page 9

She is now working with the School of Education, Arts and Sciences instructing pre-service elementary and secondary teachers and is conducting training and workshops for USL faculty-members.

Not only in USL that she shares her expertise because she is also invited in other schools and institutions to facilitate professional development opportunities for students and teachers.

“My expertise is in Education, Curriculum Design and Instruction specifically in English, and my current role is to support and enhance the professional preparation of pre-service and in-service teachers in the Philippines by providing seminars and workshops.”

“In Luzon and Mindanao, I participated in and organized workshops for the English

Access Microscholarship Program (ACCESS) which gives a foundation of English language skills to talented high school students from economically disadvantaged sectors through after-classes intensive sessions. ACCESS gives participants English skills that may lead to better jobs and educational prospects. Participants also gain the ability to compete for or participate in future exchanges and studies in the United States.”

“Another program I facilitated as an EL Fellow is the MOOC Camps (Massive Open Online Courses) which give opportunities to teachers in enhancing their professional development through collaboration with a global community of teachers. The latest MOOC Camps I facilitated are *Shaping the Way We Teach English 2* and *The Art of Poetry*,” she added.

Despite her busy schedule, she still communicates constantly with her family in the US.

“My grandparents were so interested hearing about my students, and it encouraged me to continue my passion

and move overseas to learn more about the world. Even today, they are continually motivating me in my teaching career while we communicate with one another through video chat.”

Reaching out to indigenous children of Kayapa

Miss Santoro recently collaborated with Akyat-Nueva Vizcaya, a group formed by four faculty members of Saint Mary's University (one of the sister CICM schools of USL situated in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya) for an educational outreach service to the indigenous people of Amelong-Labeng, Kayapa, Nueva Vizcaya conducted last April 9-10, 2016.

“The developing community and the school of Amelong-Labeng takes one day of trekking through the mountains to reach, so it is rarely visited by guests; however, Akyat-Nueva Vizcaya has adopted this marginalized community and regularly goes to the place with an array of projects.”

“I was invited to teach English to the indigenous children at Labeng Primary School. The next project we are eyeing for is to build a library to promote reading literacy for the indigenous people of Kayapa,” she recounted.

Starting with her travel book project

Confessing that she's a book vulture, she wants to influence others to also read, “I am a book enthusiast, so in effort to motivate others to read more and promote literacy around the globe, I

have started this travel book project.”

“I plan to read one book from every country in the world that was originally written in a native language and was translated into English, or any classic book



Santoro together with the indigenous children of Kayapa and faculty-members of Saint Mary's University. From a very long mountain trekking, Ms. Santoro played with the kids and bonded with them.

very much known to the country. The preferred books are ones that tell about the history, culture, or ways of living in the country.”

“With this project, I hope to gain a wider understanding of the whole world. If I can't travel everywhere, the books will travel for me. My chosen book for the Philippines is of course *Noli Me Tangere* by Jose Rizal,” showing to the author of this article the book she borrowed from the USL Library with excitement gleaming from her eyes.

“I also want to prove you don't need money to explore the world. You need to collaborate. Hopefully through networking, utilizing public libraries, and of course the internet, I will be able to fulfill this project. It serves as a personal research project about English and education around the globe.”



SHS Building. Currently under construction, the four-storey academic building for the Senior High School will house 18 classrooms, 3 laboratories, offices, a faculty room, and comfort rooms. The building's contemporary style highlights the atrium that allows a visual link to the environment; state-of-the-art facilities and modernized amenities.

RISE 2016: Igniting the flame of scholarly works

by Charina D. Vargas

Held on March 17, 2016 at the James Ter Meer Gymnasium, this year's undergraduate students' research forum and exhibit had the theme, "Research and Innovation in Scientific Endeavors (RISE) 2016: Igniting the Flame of Scholarly Works."

Select students from different academic departments of the University who developed "commendable" papers for their thesis requirement presented their papers.

The Best Paper was awarded to "Smart Socket" by Jan Lei Ezekiel T. Balisi, Ian Van F. Casibang, Charmaine Faith D. Laoayan, and Jhonifiel D. Lappay, all fifth year Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering (BSCpE) students from the School of Engineering, Architecture and Interior Design.

The research is about

"a socket that is capable of notifying users about the status of their appliances whenever they are plugged in the socket. A notification will be sent as a short message service (SMS) to the user's mobile phone containing the socket number and the length of time a certain appliance



has been plugged in."

Moreover, the Best Presenter award was given to Balisi from said group.

Dr. Eladio Martin Gumabay, University Research Center (URC) Assistant Director said, "The research output will be enhanced for patenting and publication."

USL hosts Friendship Meet, marks 51st Foundation



Last Feb. 10 to 14, 2016, the University of Saint Louis (USL) held a twofold festivity hosting the 5th CICM Schools Friendship Meet, a gathering of all Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary or *Congregatio Immaculati Cordis Mariae* (CICM) schools nationwide, and the celebration of the University's 51st anniversary cum the closing of its Golden Jubilee. Delegates from the different CICM schools, namely: Saint Louis College (San Fernando City, La Union), Saint Louis College-Cebu (Mandaue City), Saint Mary's University (Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya), Saint Louis

Atty. Yebra to USL graduates: Be bold in reaching your dreams

by Charina D. Vargas

The University of Saint Louis' April 2016 College and Graduate School Commencement Exercises Speaker was the 2009 No. 1 Bar topnotcher – and a USL High School alumnus.

Atty. Reinier Paul R. Yebrá, LIM, is currently working as legal officer at Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), a professorial lecturer at San Beda College of Law, and a former associate at Angara Abello Concepcion Regala & Cruz (ACCRA) Law Offices.

After graduating from the then Saint Louis College of Tuguegarao (SLCT) High School in 1997, he pursued his degree in B.A. Legal Management at University of Santo Tomas. He obtained his Bachelor of Laws degree from San Beda College of Law and his Master of Laws degree from Columbia University in New York.

A total of 1,006 college and graduate school graduates of school year 2015-2016 attended the 45th



Atty. Yebrá

commencement exercises, along with the Faculty, Administration, and guests, last April 16, 2016 at the James Ter Meer Gymnasium.

In his message to the graduates, Atty. Yebrá recounted how playful he was in his high school and college years but was eminently challenged when he was in San Beda, where he became the class valedictorian and editor-in-chief of the San Beda Law Journal.

He enthusiastically advised the graduates to go beyond what is expected from them and dare to be bold in reaching their dreams.

University (Baguio City) and University of Saint Louis (Tuguegarao City) competed in the friendship meet as they showcased their smarts, talents and sportsmanship in academic, socio-cultural and sports events. The meet's theme "Makkorofun, Makkarauffun," two Ybanag terms for friendship and support, respectively, was meant to make the CICM school's students, teachers, coaches, parents, and administrators bolster fellowship and affinity with one another. Simultaneously, USL celebrated its Foundation Day last Feb. 11 to 14. Several events took place during the occasion including Cosplay,

Couture and Body Art Contest, Trio La Diva Contest, Jump Street Competition, Cheer and Dance Competition, and Cultural Presentations. As a culminating highlight, the Valentine Festival of Lights was held last Feb. 14. USL students and employees who were joined by the other CICM schools' delegates, paraded around the Tuguegarao City proper on Valentine's Day with their themed-lanterns.

This article was also published in the March 1, 2016 issue of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*. For related news, please visit: usl.edu.ph/cicm or www.facebook.com/USLPhilippines.