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USL NEWSLETTER

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

USL sets vision towards 2020

by Macekrell T. De la Cruz

The University has set out its new vision with its strategic plan for 2017-2020.

"USL is a global learning community recognized for science and technology across all disciplines, strong research, and responsive community engagement grounded on the

CICM mission and identity for a distinctive student experience," so reads the new vision of the University.

The new vision statement was crafted in July during the formulation of the new USL strategic plan, dubbed as "USL 2020."

The strategic planning started with a multi-stakeholder consultation workshop on July 1 at the University. It was attended by University employees and

student, parent and alumni representatives.

The consultation elicited the stakeholders' aspirations for USL after three years' time and the strategies to achieve such. It was followed with strategic planning workshops on July 2-3 at Sta. Ana, Cagayan by the members of USL administration and heads of offices with Dr. Noel C. Racho of Miriam College as facilitator.

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Basic Ed robotics program aims to foster sci-tech, 21st century skills

by Jef-Jef Anagaran

As the University of Saint Louis (USL) envisions to be a global learning community recognized for science and technology, the Elementary Department and Junior High School Science curriculum across grade levels have recently adopted robotics program in their respective curricula and effectively implemented this school year 2017-2018.

USL, in collaboration with First EduSpec, Inc. (FEI), a K to 12 IT Education Provider in Asia, aims to provide opportunities to bring out 21st century skills of the Louisian pupils and students through embracing and implementing science and technology related programs in

the University.

'Robotics for School' program

The "Robotics for School" (RFS) is a program designed by First EduSpec, Inc. which offers exclusive and advanced education with basic engineering technology and literacy for primary and secondary schools in the Philippines.

The said robotics program is anchored on John Dewey's "learning-by-doing" pedagogical concept which exposes learners to various tasks to solve specific problems in real-life situations. It uses collaborative project-based curriculum wherein pupils and students are exposed to various competency-based learning tasks.

Under the program, hands-on and engaging activities are conducted inside the classroom. Interactive techniques such as games, brainstorming and other group dynamics are used in learning, designing and creating functional robots out of LEGO parts.

Unleashing potentials

The robotics program in the Elementary Department focuses on introduction to basic architectural and mechanical construction of robots with less emphasis on theories.

"The robotics program is an avenue to produce learners with the 21st century skills

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Louisian student tops civil service exam

by Danryll T. Maramag

Tuguegarao City – A senior BS Accountancy student of the University of Saint Louis ranked number one nationwide in the civil service examination administered by the Civil Service Commission on August 6, 2017.

Callangan notched the top rank under the professional level with a rating of 90.87 percent.



Callangan said he did not aspire to top the exam. Instead, he said he just did his best and prayed.

He shared that he read parts of the exam that were related to English, and that he made himself familiar with how the exam would be like. "The exam entailed being fast in answering the questions at the

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TOSP reg'l awardees honored in USL

by Macekrell T. De la Cruz

Tuguegarao City – Twenty young leaders from Cagayan Valley Region were bestowed recognitions during the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines (TOSP) Region 02 Awarding Ceremonies, Aug. 4, 2017 at the Bulwagang Teodulfo Domingo of the University of Saint Louis (USL).

The TOSP Region 02 awardees are the following: Mark Lee B. Babaran (Saint Paul University Philippines), Mark Anthony P. Baliuag (Saint Paul University Philippines), Louise Aldeim I. Burgos (Saint Mary's University), Jomar A. Felix (Philippine Normal University -North Luzon), Harvin Julius A. Lasquero (University of Saint Louis), Marvin B. Pagsuyoio (University of La Salette), Aira

V. Pangilinan (University of La Salette), Brendan Jansen L. Tangan (Saint Paul University Philippines), Joshua Q. Tumanguil (Cagayan State University-Andrews Campus), and Jordan C. Ursua, Jr. (Quirino State University).

The other finalists are: Jayson T. Dunuan (International School of Asia and the Pacific), Mervin Jay M. Go (Saint Mary's University), Mari Anne F.

Madrid (Our Lady of the Pillar College), Christian Hector G. Misanes (Aldersgate College), Mighty C. Molina (Cagayan State University - Aparri Campus), Antonio M. Narciso III (University of La Salette), Charlene Joy B. Quintos (University of Perpetual Help System), Mark John R. Rapanan (Cagayan State University -

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The regional awardees and other finalists with Archbishop Sergio L. Utleg of the Archdiocese of Tuguegarao (center right), Philippine Information Agency RO2 Director Purita S. Licas (center left), and other officials who worked for the search



SEAIDITE produces two topnotchers, 1st professional EE

by Macekrell T. De la Cruz

The School of Engineering, Architecture, Interior Design, and Information Technology Education (SEAIDITE) has made name again – with two of its 2017 graduates landing top places in their respective licensure exams and a 1998 graduate becoming a Professional Electrical Engineer.

Engr. Jeromie S. Salas ranked seventh (7th) in the October 2017 Geodetic Licensure Examination. Engr. Richard S. Balingway placed eighth (8th) in the September 2017 Registered Master Electrician (RME) Licensure Examination. The latter, by virtue of passing the RME exam, is a registered master electrician, but by passing likewise the Registered Electrical Engineer (REE) Licensure Examination in September 2017, he is a registered electrical engineer.

Meanwhile, the University boasts of its first ever professional electrical engineer, Engr. Dexter S. Carinugan, who passed the September 2017 Technical Evaluation for the Upgrading as Professional Electrical Engineers (PEE).

Engr. Carinugan is the president and country manager of Enercon Systems International Philippines.

The licensure exams and technical evaluation mentioned were all administered by



the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC).

Louisian STAR wins bronze in int'l math contest

by Kathryn Anne P. Bunagan

A Grade 10 student of the University of Saint Louis (USL) brought home victory as she reaped a bronze medal during the Olympics Mathematics 3D Cup Pan-Asia Pacific International Invitation Competition (3D Cup PAP) in Macau, China, July 7-10, 2017.

Julie Anne Supeña was one among the Philippine representatives qualified to compete against eight other countries after joining the Mathematics Training Program conducted to prepare Philippine delegates for two international contests, one of which is the 3D Cup PAP.

Before the 3D Cup PAP, Supeña battled in another international Mathematics competition, the International Mathematics Wizard Challenge (IMWiC) in Xiamen, China, May 19-24, 2017, showing off the skills she acquired as a member of the Mathematics Trainers' Guild (MTG), Philippines.

Mrs. Rosel

Gannaban, Mathematics Coordinator of the USL Junior High School, said that Supeña's victory is another blessing as Supeña is an addition to the number of USL High School students who competed internationally and came back home as winners.

"Julie Anne is just one of our students who continue to give pride not only to our University but also to our country," she also said. "Truly, to God be the glory."

Team Philippines garnered 22 bronze and two silver medals this year.



USL partners with U.S. Embassy, hosts MOOC Camp

by Therese May G. Alejandrino

The University of Saint Louis (USL), in partnership with the American Spaces, Department of State, U.S. Embassy (Manila), had been chosen as a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) Camp in the Cagayan Valley Region for the course "Leading Ambitious Teaching and Learning" which was offered from Oct.-Dec. 2017.

Designed and offered by the University of Michigan's School of Education and Ross School of Business, and made accessible through edX, the four-module course focused on the following topics: An Introduction to Ambitious Instruction; Learning with Digital Technology Tools; Systems Thinking and Improving at Scale; and, Leading Transformative Change.

Speakers during the virtual programs were: Professor Donald

Peurach, Associate Professor, University of Michigan; Dr. Kevin Yee, Director of the Academy of Teaching and Learning Excellence, University of South Florida; and Ms. Erin Gruwell, the American teacher known for her unique teaching method applied in disadvantaged schools in the United States of America.

Professor Peurach shared that teachers need to deliberately construct learning environments and experiences in classrooms that resemble the real world as they also set high expectations for students. He also emphasized the need for teachers to collaborate with colleagues and partner with professional learning communities. Such partnership, accordingly, is essential for teachers to learn new trends, updates and good practices in leading ambitious teaching and learning.

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HT convention: Philippine destinations, industry gains

by Jef-Jef Anagaran

Tuguegarao City – Hospitality and tourism enthusiasts from different schools, universities and colleges all over Region 02 attended the 14th Regional Hospitality and Tourism Convention and 6th Hospitality and Tourism Society (HOSTS) Academics and Skills Olympics hosted by the School of Accountancy, Business and Hospitality (SABH) through its Convention and Events Management Class (CEMC) on Nov. 24-25, 2017.

Three speakers graced the convention, reinforcing the theme: "The Enchanting Philippines: An Endless Commitment in Hospitality and Tourism Industry Gains."

Hon. Gina Lopez, ABS-CBN travel host and former secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), had for her talk: "Philippine Destinations: A Rediscovery from a Traveler's Perspective."

Chef Grachie Madridano, a culinary consultant, shared on "Culinary Adventures: Tales of a Culinary Traveler." Mr. Belman

Millan, owner and overall operations manager of Chopping Burgh PH, discussed "The World of a Traveling Entrepreneur."

A keynote speech was delivered through the representative of Dr. Silvino Tejada, CESO III, undersecretary for Ecotourism, Farm Tourism and Faith Advocacy of the Department of Tourism (DOT).

The convention was held at the Crown Pavilion. It was followed with the Academics and Skills Olympics at USL.

Participants showed off their knowledge/skills in Travel Feature Writing, Tourism Quiz Bee, Destination Diorama with Tour Guiding, Tour Package Proposal, Flair tandem with Mock tail Mixing, "Mystery Box," 3-in-1 (Table Skirting, Set-up, and Center Piece Making), Cupcake Decoration Contest, and Scenic Photography.

The winners in the different competitions were recognized during the closing program of the two-day hospitality and tourism events.



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The United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia (UBCHEA) has approved USL's application for Bamboo Grants Program amounting to US \$4,000 for USL's International Extension Program, particularly Leadership Development and Management Program, for Kachin Theological College and Seminary in Myanmar.



Convention organizers

VP Academics speaks at HELP IV in Myanmar

by Danryll T. Maramag

Dr. Emmanuel James Pattaguan, University of Saint Louis (USL) Vice President for Academics, was invited as one of the international speakers during the Higher Education Leadership Program (HELP) IV which was held in Myanmar last June 26-28, 2017.

The Vice-President, together with Dr. Gail Dickinson from Texas State University, USA and Dr. Malee Kongwannit from Payap University, Thailand,



Dr. Pattaguan (first row, tenth from left) with the HELP IV participants and other speakers

shared his expertise in education on the theme, "Education for Wholeness and Transformation."

Dr. Pattaguan presented about the topic: "Understanding the Self and the 21st Century Learner," emphasizing the educational demands teachers need to know in coping with the

learning styles of the 21st century learner. He also talked about Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) which he stressed as an important outcome in education in the 21st century.

The program, which was hosted by Dagon University in Yangon, Myanmar, aimed to shed

insights into the educational shift in the 21st century, and train ASEAN teachers on how to cope with the learning styles of the 21st century learner.

The event was sponsored by the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia (UBCHEA).

Ethnopharmacology, ALS researches published in Thomson Reuters, Scopus indexed journals

by Macekrell T. De la Cruz and Danryll T. Maramag

Tuguegarao City – Studies from the University of Saint Louis (USL) on ethnopharmacology and alternative learning system (ALS) learners recently merited publication in peer-reviewed international journals.

The study entitled “Ethnopharmacology of Medicinal Plants in a Rural Area in Northern Philippines” documented the plants used for the treatment of health problems among the people of a rural community in Northern Philippines.

The community largely depends on medicinal plants, such as “adelfa” (oleander), cacao, “lumboy” (Java plum), “parya” (bitter gourd), “salamagi” (tamarind), and others, to meet the people’s primary health care needs, according to the study.

An ethnopharmacological survey was conducted to collect information about the medicinal plants used by the community people. Information was gathered from the traditional healers and local inhabitants of the community through plant collection and interview.

Forty-one (41) medicinal plant species are used by the people to treat 30 illnesses and diseases. The people use the medicinal

plants in treating simple health problems, the researchers noted.

The study, conducted by Darin Jan C. Tindowen, Head of the Center for Social Innovation, Local Knowledge, and Educational Research (CSILKER), Jennifer C. Bangi, University Research Associate, and Dr. Marie Jean N. Mendezabal, Institutional Research and Publication Office (IRPO) Director, was published in the Journal of Biodiversity and Environmental Science (JBES), Volume 11, Number, 1, 2017. JBES is indexed in the Thomson Reuters/ISI Zoological Record. The full paper is downloadable at <http://www.innspub.net/jbes/ethnopharmacology-medicinal-plants-rural-community-northern-philippines/>.

Meanwhile, the paper entitled “Twenty-First-Century Skills of Alternative Learning System Learners” determined the 21st century skills of ALS learners in Northern Philippines. The Alternative Learning System of the Philippine government provides out-of-school children, youth and adults with basic education.

The study revealed that the 150 ALS learner-respondents from five schools in Northern Philippines have a high level of local connections skills or the ability of



the students to apply knowledge to local or community contexts.

Moderate to low levels of acquisition were noted for critical thinking, self-direction, communication, collaboration, global connections, and information and communications technology (ICT) skills. Creativity and innovation skills were very low following ICT skills.

The study further detailed that sex, age, and employment status of ALS learners affect their acquisition of the 21st-century skills.

“The study underscores how ALS learners are doing in terms of the acquisition of 21st century skills. The study serves as a basis for policy and intervention formulation to help uplift the ALS learners for them to cope with the

challenges of globalization,” said John Michael Bassig, one of the researchers.

Bassig, who is currently a Senior High School faculty in USL, co-authored the research with Tindowen and Jay-Ar Cagurangan, a Teacher Education student. Their research appears on SAGE Open, Volume 7, Issue 3, 2017. The full paper is downloadable at <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/2158244017726116>.

SAGE Open is indexed in both Thomson Reuters/ISI Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) and in Scopus. Thomson Reuters/ ISI Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) and Scopus are both databases of high-impact, peer-reviewed international journals.

–With Darin Jan Tindowen

SEASH, CSILKER spearhead research confab on local knowledge, indigenous studies

by Danryll T. Maramag

Tuguegarao City – The School of Education, Arts, Sciences, and Health (SEASH), through its Social Sciences Department, and the Center for Social Innovation, Local Knowledge and Educational Research (CSILKER), organized a three-day research conference on local knowledge and indigenous studies last Oct. 25-27, 2017 at the University of Saint Louis (USL).

Researchers from different higher and basic institutions in the Philippines such as Cagayan State University, Department of Education (DepEd) Isabela, DepEd Pasig, Isabela State University, Lyceum of Aparri, Nueva Vizcaya State University, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Marikina, Philippine Normal University, and University of

Santo Tomas presented their respective researches during the said conference.

From the conference theme: “Revaluing Local Knowledge: Rediscovering an Untapped Resource for Community Building,” researches presented were on indigenous peoples’ education, culture and the arts, local history, farming and agriculture, ethnomedicine, and disaster risk reduction management.

Four plenary speakers graced

the event: Dr. Emmanuel James Pattagan, USL Vice President for Academics and representative to the Asian University Digital Resource Network (AUDRN), for “Representing and Revaluing of Local Knowledge;” Dr. Leah Abayao, Director of the Cordillera Studies Center, University of the Philippines Baguio, for the “Opportunities and Challenges in the Indigenous Studies in the Philippines;” Mr. Enrique Gallardo, a public-private

partnerships specialist, for “Local Knowledge and its Crucial Role in Good Governance;” and Dr. Samuel Soliven, OIC-Assistant Schools Division Superintendent, Division of Quirino, for “Integration of Local Knowledge in Schools and Communities.”

The said research conference was endorsed by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Department of Education, and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).



CHED, NCCA ok 3 CSILKER research proposals to receive P8 M fund

by Jef-Jef Anagaran

Three research proposals of the Center for Social Innovation, Local Knowledge, and Educational Research (CSILKER) have been approved by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) to receive financial support for 2017's cycle of SALIKHA Creative Grants.

"There are three research proposals of CSILKER which qualified for CHED-NCCA SALIKHA grants. The research proposals cost eight million pesos and need around 20 faculty members to complete the researches," said Mr. Darin Jan C. Tindowen, CSILKER head.

Team leaders of the said three research proposals are: Dr. Ray T. Obispo for "Preservation and Promotion of Ibanag Cultural Resources through Cultural Mapping;" Mr. Tindowen for "Knowledge Systems and Practices of Aeta Communities in Cagayan Valley Region towards the Establishment of Agta Community Heritage Center;" and Mrs. Jennifer C. Bangi for "The Malaueg Language Corpus and Folk Literature of Rizal, Cagayan."

The SALIKHA Creative Grants is a joint program of CHED and NCCA to advance arts research and ignite creative projects that tackle Philippine arts and culture to deepen cultural knowledge, showcase distinct Filipino identity, and promote socio-cultural transformation in the country.

SALIKHA was derived from the words *saliksik* (research) and *likha* (work/creation), which aims to provide financial support to higher education institutions to produce and share creative outputs for publication, exhibition, production, and



other forms of public use.

The CHED and NCCA encouraged interested teaching and non-teaching personnel who were affected by the K to 12 transition from all higher education institutions (HEIs) in the Philippines to partake in the program.

Moreover, a total of P300 million is the budget of the joint program of the two agencies for selected proposals and projects. Chosen proposals and approved projects may receive grants worth P500,000 to P10 million, depending on the type and scale of the project. The agencies have also strictly emphasized that outputs must also be commensurate to the size of the grant provided.

Designs of the proposals and projects were aligned on research, innovation, development, and production of creative outputs and knowledge centered on arts and culture; indigenous knowledge system and practices; preservation and documentation of vanishing traditions and practices; local and community culture, history and language; and innovation or new technologies in the arts.

Teacher Ed studies present papers, sweep awards

by Darin Jan C. Tindowen and Jef-Jef Anagaran

The first semester of the new calendar year has been a fruitful term for teacher education researchers.

Two student researchers notched awards during the Pre-Service Teachers' Research Colloquium organized by Quirino State University (QSU) last Oct. 30, 2017.

Ms. Lady Krenz Pascua, Bachelor of Elementary Education (BEE) IV, clinched the Best Research Paper and Best Research Presenter awards for her research entitled "An Exploration on the Effects of Private Tutoring to Elementary Pupils" under the Professional Education category.

Ms. Mica Talay, Bachelor of Secondary Education (BSED) IV English, brought home the Best Research Paper award under the Language and Literature category with her research entitled "Malaueg Folk Literature: An Expression of their Identity and Culture."

Mr. Harold Baggay, BSED IV English, also presented his study "The Undocumented Folk Literature of Pinukpuk, Kalinga."

The research colloquium was endorsed and supported by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Department of Education (DepEd).

Nationals

Ms. Natalie Kate Ramirez, BSED IV English, presented her research "Students' Difficulties in Translating Mathematics Word Problems" during the National Conference of Teachers in Research last Nov. 9-11, 2017 at the University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City.

Furthermore, two senior teacher education students also shared the results of their researches during the Research Conference on Local Knowledge and Indigenous Studies last Oct. 25-27, 2017 at the University of Saint Louis.

Ms. Mica Andam (BEE) and Ms. Kristal Jean Fronda (BSED Social Science) presented their researches entitled "Indigenous Disaster Risk Reduction Management Beliefs and Practices of the Asibanglan Sub-tribe of Kalinga" and "The Face of Cagayano in the Midst of Natural Calamity: The Lawin Experience," respectively.

The conference was supported and endorsed by the CHED, DepEd, and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

International presentation

A research entitled "All for one, one for all: the Role of Filipino Pro-Social Behaviors in Building a Disaster Resilient Community" authored by AB Psychology students, with Mr. Darin Jan C. Tindowen as their research adviser, was presented during the International Research Conference on Sustainable Development through a video presentation.

Mr. Tindowen, head of the Center for Social Innovation, Local Knowledge, and Educational Research (CSILKER), presented the said paper.

The conference was conducted last Nov. 24-26, 2017 in Baku, Azerbaijan and organized by the AZAARSU-Azerbaijan and Clarivate Analytics.

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4 CICM novices take immersion in USL

by Macekrell T. De la Cruz

The University of Saint Louis, as a CICM school, has been a monthlong-home to four CICM novices for their school immersion from November 9 to December 8, 2017.

This is the first time that the CICM Theophile Verbist Novitiate, based in Taytay, Rizal, has included such activity in its novitiate program.

The novices, who are preparing to become full-fledged members of the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (*Latin: Congregatio Immaculati Cordis Mariae*), are Brothers Alef Cesar Augustinho, Julius Ronald Allo Bunga, Meil Udiel Francisco, and Jimmy Lawas.

Brother Alef Cesar Augustinho is from Minas Gerais, Brazil; Julius Ronald Allo Bunga from West Sulawesi, Indonesia; Meil Udiel Francisco from San Quintin, Pangasinan; and Jimmy Lawas from San Carlos City,

Negros Occidental.

In a letter from the CICM Theophile Verbist Novitiate, the school immersion aimed at nourishing the novices' interaction with students and expose them to USL while doing vocation animation.

The novitiate hoped that the immersion would make the novices better understand USL's vision-mission and the relevance of the school in building young people with Christian values and become better citizens of the nation.

Activities of the novices included visits in Elementary, High School, and College classes sharing in specific subjects their relevant experiences with vocation animation talks; attendance to daily masses and recollections with students and teachers; visit to the Dinggin Ka Learning Center (DKLC), the University's learning center for the hearing- and speech-

impaired, and other units/offices in the University; attendance to programs such as the CICM Day, Graders' days, Family days, and Catholic Educators' Day; and participation in outreach and off-campus social activities (tree planting, jail visitation, mission drive/ "daily sacrifice," and donations campaign). The novices also assisted in some work at the Campus Ministry Office. At one time, the novices visited Saint Mary's University, fellow CICM school of USL, for an activity.

Brother Alef Cesar Augustinho quotes the words of

Pope Benedict XVI which, the novice considers, a summary of his feelings, insights and learnings in relation to his immersion, "Catholic schools become place where God's active presence in human affairs is recognized and every young person discovers the joy of entering into Christ's 'being for others' as well."

The novices expressed their gratitude to Rev. Fr. Rex Salvilla, USL CICM Liaison Officer, Rev. Fr. Thiago Silva, USL Vice President for Mission and Identity (VPMI) and Chaplain, and to the USL community in general.



From left: Bro. MU, Bro. Alef, Bro. Isidore N'Kiewu (CICM intern in USL, Sept.-Dec. 2017), Fr. Rex, Bro. Julius, and Bro. Jimmy

Basic Ed robotics program aims to foster sci-tech, 21st century skills

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such as critical thinking, creative thinking, and of course, collaboration and communication among the pupils during their activities," said Dr. Emily T. Maborang, principal of the Elementary Department.

The inclusion of the program in the curriculum of the Elementary Department is also aimed at honing and refining the pupils' soft skills such as management and manipulative skills.

Dr. Maborang likewise said that the program serves as a cognitive and social milestone for the pupils to discover technological possibilities in the teaching-learning environment. She emphasized that the program is incorporated in Mathematics, and each activity of the pupils is recorded and added in their performance in Mathematics subject.

Strengthening HOTS

High level concentration on theories, advanced architectural and mechanical construction, focused programming activities, and thorough assessment on robotics experiments distinguish the robotics program in the Science curriculum of the

Junior High School.

Series of activities is conducted to challenge students' problem-solving, strategic thinking and teamwork. Workshops are also done to enhance students' visual communicative skills and technological languages in explaining and illustrating different aspects of technology.

Moreover, problem and project-based learning tasks like designing, programming and animating robots are most expected activities of the students. These activities present complex problems such that students are to use reasoned decisions and solve problems through exploring deeper understanding of concepts and principles.

With these activities, students are expected to be competently equipped with the aforementioned skills and be well-versed in manipulating robot educational tools.

Through the University's robotics program, pupils and students are expected to have valuable exposure to scientific advancements and explore technical know-hows.



USL hosts National Book Week celebration for 3rd straight year

by Michelle A. Abella

For the third time since the first hosting in 2015, the University Libraries has once again accommodated the conduct of a Regional Literary Joust in celebration of the 83rd National Book Week with the theme "Libraries Take Action: Providing Access and Opportunity for All" on Sept. 4, 2017.

The different USL libraries were the venues for the contested events: the Elementary Library for the story-retelling contest, the High School Library for the

Name-that-Leisure-Reading-Book contest, and the College Library for the essay writing and poster making contests.

Contestants and coaches from nine divisions as well as higher education institutions within the region came for the joust.

In the national level, the activity is spearheaded by the Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. (PLAI) in partnership with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts-National Committee



on Library and Information Services (NCCA-NCLIS) and the National Library of the Philippines (NLP).

In Region 02, the celebration is led by the Department of

Education (DepEd) Regional Office through the Office of the Curriculum Learning Management Division and the PLAI Cagayan Valley Region Librarians Council.

Mental health awareness promoted among Louisians

by Franchette J. Baccay

The College Guidance and Counseling Center has launched its mental health awareness program for students in the University with the theme: "Sound Mind and Sound Body: Synergy for Louisian Students' Well-Being," as part of its advocacy in line with the National Mental Health Awareness celebrated every October all over the world.

Slogan and poster making contests were conducted last Oct. 13, 2017 to jumpstart the program.

All the slogans and posters are posted at the side of the former Dean of Student Affairs Office to be used as background for a picture-taking contest, mechanics of which are posted at the USL Facebook page (www.facebook.com/USLPhilippines).

Moreover, a symposium

was held on Oct. 21, 2017 for the official launching of the program in the University. The participants were the University student leaders from academic and non-academic organizations and other identified students.

Seminars will also be conducted every Friday at 10:30-12:00 from November 2017 to February 2018. Topics include: What It Takes to be Happy; Practicing Acts of Kindness and Generosity; Willingness beyond Difficulties; Resiliency: Overcoming Life Challenges; Creating a Positive Environment; Understand Emotional Quotient; How Full is Your Emotional Cup? Discover Possibilities of Nurturing Yourself; and Strengthening Self-Esteem: Ways of Boosting Self Confidence.



Mental Health Awareness symposium

SABH holds 1st alumni homecoming

by Jef-Jef Anagaran

The School of Accountancy, Business and Hospitality (SABH) organized the first collegiate alumni homecoming in the history of the University of Saint Louis (USL) held last Dec. 30, 2017 at USL.

Mrs. Karen Joy Annang-Catacutan, one of the organizers of the event and head of the University's Center for Business Research and Development, said that the event aimed to foster close relationships among USL-SABH alumni and to establish long-term partnerships among themselves.

With around 300 alumni in attendance, the homecoming was accordingly held to also encourage responsible alumni involvement and participation in the school, community, and extension activities.

The activities conducted during the event were: zumba,

fun run, morning agape, 'bingo for-a-cause,' election of alumni officers, and free legal counseling.

In the event, alumni who have distinguishable contributions as leaders in the local and national communities and in their fields of chosen endeavor were also recognized.

Among the SABH alumni who were present during the homecoming were: Mr. Rolando Caypuno, former dean of the then School of Business Administration and Accountancy; Mr. Richie Jackson T. Padilla and Mr. Jackson C. Apostol, both top one in the 2008 and 2013 Certified Public Accountant (CPA) board examinations, respectively; Ms. Raamah Elisha Dadhwal, former SABH governor; Hon. Queenie Abel Mallillin, judge at the 1st Municipal Circuit Trial Court (MCTC), Claveria-Sta. Praxedes-Calayan, Cagayan; and other notable graduates from the different batches of the said academic department.

The other schools/departments of the University are expected to follow similar endeavor of SABH.



Accounting employs ticket-based QMS

by Jef-Jef Anagaran and Bezael R. Andres

The University of Saint Louis (USL), through the Office of the Vice President for Finance, is currently implementing the new Accounting ticket-based Queue Management System (QMS).

According to Mr. Noel T. Banauag, Financial Management Information System (FMIS) officer, the QMS was set up to streamline long lines in front of the Accounting office during peak periods such as enrollment and paying of school fees.

Queue Management System is a set of tools and principles to enforce office procedures and shorten on-site wait times through streamlining queue experience and controlling flow of clients using the “first in, first out” scheme.

“The QMS gives ease and comfort to the students and other clients of the University. And when it comes to the process, it promotes proper discipline among students because they just have to wait for their numbers to be called,” Mr. Banauag said.

The QMS has the following components: Queue Server, Ticket Dispenser, Call Attendant Software, Large Format Bulletin

and Window Service Control Panel.

“Improvements [in the system] are now being considered to address some deficiencies like uncontrolled issuance of tickets and so on,” Mr. Banauag ended.

Said implementation of the management system is part of the University’s efforts to upgrade school facilities and improve quality of services for student satisfaction and client engagement.



JHS installs SMS-based turnstiles

by Danryll T. Maramag

The University of Saint Louis, in partnership with the Junior High School (JHS) Executive Family Council (EFC) officers, has recently installed Short Messaging System (SMS)-based Notification System turnstiles at the JHS gate for students’ safety and security.

“The said project is one of the priority projects of the

JHS EFC this school year for parents to be informed of the regularity of attendance and actual time-in and time-out of their children,” said Ms. Mary Ann Baquiran, High School principal.

Mrs. Maria Tungcul, JHS Prefect of Discipline, explained that the system works by a student’s tapping his/her identification card through the machine. Upon verification, a text message will be sent to a parent with the information on his/her child’s entry to/ exit from school.

The system is equipped with a monitoring screen for security purposes as well.



TOSP regional awardees honored in USL

...continued from page 2

Gonzaga Campus), Chantal Therese B. Tayaban (Saint Mary’s University), and Katrina A. Tejada (University of Cagayan Valley).

Dr. Johnattan E. Valdez, TOSP 2011 regional awardee and national finalist, was the guest speaker. He is a teacher and the Senior High School coordinator of Bintawan National High School in Villaverde, Nueva Vizcaya.

Urging all the awardees and other finalists, his fellow TOSP alumni present during the event, and those with passion for learning, leading, and serving, Valdez said, “Never stop learning and do well when engaged in learning because our greatest weapon to liberate ourselves and others is through education. We, too, should persist in taking



TOSP-inspired. The regional awardees join Dr. Valdez (center) in a photo opportunity.

the lead in having a good fight for the common good because who else will do it if not us? We, too, should remain faithful to our ministry or service we have started because this gives more meaning to our existence.”

“We should accept our mission and be thankful for it by doing well for ourselves and for others to fulfill God’s beautiful and majestic plan on earth,” Valdez further said. “Being thankful means not aiming for publicity, recognition and honor, not even the number of likes or followers on social media, instead – doing things because it is the right thing to do

for humanity, for God’s greater glory.”

Meanwhile, Lasquero, a 2017 BS Architecture graduate of USL, said in an e-mail that he was honored to celebrate leadership with the other 19 outstanding students of the region.

Also, he has a message to his fellow Louisians. “To all the Louisian leaders out there, never miss a good opportunity. Be an advocate and set yourself as a model. Leadership is like a ripple, if you touch lives, there’s a movement. Big or little opportunity, grab it! For in gentle waves, we can shake the world. And in our own little ways, we

can make a difference anyway.”

Lasquero is also a Philippine Model Congress ambassador in the Senate of the Philippines.

The 10 regional awardees will advance to the national TOSP search.

The TOSP is an annual search for students who are “role models of academic excellence, exemplary leadership, good moral values, and socio-civic consciousness.” It drew inspiration from the life of Dr. Jose Rizal, the Philippines’ national hero. Jose Concepcion, Jr. of RFM Corporation founded the search on June 19, 1961, the hero’s 100th birthday.

USL partners with U.S. Embassy, hosts MOOC Camp ...continued from page 3

Dr. Yee lectured on how teachers can sustain students' interest in learning through "ANSWER" which stands for: Attention, Novelty, Spacing, Why, Emotions, and Residue. He emphasized on the need for teachers to get students' attention through novel approaches and strategies, and practical and relevant assessments done regularly but in appropriate intervals. He also stated the need for students to fully understand the relevance of content and the targeted outcomes in the course.

Ms. Gruwell, the transformative teacher-leader behind the nonfiction *The Freedom Writers Diary*, shared her belief that the classroom is filled with wonderful students. Teachers, accordingly, have to build a safe place in the classroom, "where truth and justice are valued." Ms. Gruwell also spoke of the need to let students speak and stand up for what they believe in through writing and other non-violent means. "We become bigger than ourselves," she said, referring to teachers when they live a life of duty through action.

Aside from the online learning platform, regular meet-ups gave opportunities for enrollees to share practices related to ambitious teaching and learning. They were able to do vision-setting by sharing their "higher purpose" statements, metaphors, and goals as lifelong learners.

With the 17 MOOC camps that took the course simultaneously, and with the U.S. Embassy as



Course completers show off their certificates of completion during their graduation dubbed "Celebration of Learning." In photo also are USL President Delailah Valencia and VP for Academics Emmanuel James Pattaguan.

the University's partner, learners experienced how technology in learning can aid learners cross over boundaries in terms of geography, culture, and language. There was sharing and learning among enrollees and speakers from Visayas, Mindanao and the United States.

The MOOC Camp conducted its Celebration of Learning on December 8 as 39 participants from private and public schools received their certificates of completion/ participation from the U.S. Embassy. The graduation ceremony was graced with the presence of Dr. Delailah B. Valencia, USL President, and Dr. Emmanuel James P. Pattaguan, USL Vice President for Academics. Mr. Xavier Lee, Director of the American Spaces Philippines, U.S. Embassy in the

Philippines, facilitated the virtual program.

Read the full story at [http://](http://www.usl.edu.ph/news/usl-partners-with-u-s-embassy-hosts-mooc-camp/)

www.usl.edu.ph/news/usl-partners-with-u-s-embassy-hosts-mooc-camp/.

Louisian student tops civil service exam ...continued from page 1

same time being accurate. I made sure each of my analyses and my computations in Mathematics and Logic was accurate."

He gives the advice to those who aspire to pass the civil service exam to prepare until they feel satisfied with the preparation and to never be pressured while taking the exam. "You have prepared for the exam, so just relax and enjoy taking it. Lastly, don't forget to seek the guidance of the Lord while taking the exam, and as the exam is finished, don't also forget

to pray for it until results are out."

Callangan said he took the exam to have better credentials in the future. He aspires to become a certified public accountant (CPA) and a lawyer.

Further on his national feat, he said, "I am thankful to God for such a blessing."

Callangan is a consistent academic scholar of the University. "I don't pressure myself that much in studying. I just enjoy learning while exerting the required effort to excel."

Louisians support Tree Legacy Program

by Jef-Jef Anagaran

Members of the Louisian family have shown support to one of the University's advocacy programs, the Tree Legacy Program, through their participation in tree-planting and related activities spearheaded by the Center for Social Action (CSA), in cooperation with the Metropolitan Tuguegarao Water District (MTWD), this first semester of the school year.

The program includes tree planting, weeding, tree height measuring, tree inventory, potting, and seedling production.

Mr. Nestor Cabrido, CSA head,

said the University conducted four activities during the first semester.

Faculty members of the School of Accountancy, Business and Hospitality (SABH), School of Education, Arts, Sciences, and Health (SEASH), School of Engineering, Architecture, Interior Design, and Information Technology Education (SEADITE), non-teaching personnel (NTP), including two student organizations, partook in said activities at the Watershed Area of San Roque, Peñablanca, Cagayan.

Similar activities are scheduled for the next semester with participation of more College student organizations,

faculty members of the College, High School and Elementary departments, and the non-teaching personnel.

Mr. Cabrido stressed that the Tree Legacy Program aims to fortify the University's efforts towards the conservation, preservation, and protection of Mother Nature.

"The Tree Legacy Program emphasizes our commitment to show concern for the environment and help diminish the unfavorable effects of climate change," the CSA head said.

Mr. Cabrido likewise emphasized that the program has strengthened the University's partnership with MTWD.



USL sets vision towards 2020

...continued from page 1

Meanwhile, a restatement of the mission statement of the University was done which now reads as follows: "USL sustains a Catholic academic community that nurtures persons for community, church and society anchored on CICM's *Missio et Excellentia*."

The University core values of (1) Christian living, (2) excellence, (3) professional responsibility, (4) social awareness and involvement, and (5) innovation, creativity and agility are in place.

Based on the core values and on USL graduate attributes, the University, through its key administrators, has also come up

with its institutional outcomes.

USL2020 has three key strategy areas: demonstrated mission and identity; distinctive excellence in science and technology and in flagship programs; and dynamic operational management systems.

"It is with great pride that I enjoin the Louisiana community to support this strategic plan through the various strategies and programs that have been formulated towards the attainment of USL 2020 and ultimately, the vision, mission, core values, and institutional outcomes of our beloved University. We implore the continuous guidance and blessing of our God Almighty," said University President Delailah B. Valencia in her message in the published new strategic plan.

Center for Social Action holds bloodletting drive

by Jef-Jef Anagaran

The University's newly named Center for Social Action (CSA), formerly Community Extension Services, conducted two bloodletting activities for the first semester of school year 2017-2018 in collaboration with the different academic departments and partner organizations here in Cagayan.

The Center, the Philippine Red Cross Cagayan Chapter, the Health group of the School of Education, Arts, Sciences and Health (SEASH) and SEASH itself as sponsoring department, organized a two-day bloodletting activity, dubbed "Saving Lives," last Aug. 30-31, 2017 at the

Bulwagang Teodulfo Domingo.

Almost two months later, the CSA and the Cagayan Valley Medical Center's Northern Blood Services with the help of the SEASH's Health group and the School of Accountancy, Business and Hospitality (SABH) as sponsoring department, conducted another two-day bloodletting activity, themed "Dugo ko, Share ko," on Oct. 24-25, 2017 at the Saint Lorenzo Building.

The bloodletting aimed to generate more blood supply for use of Louisians when needed and to encourage more Louisiana blood donor advocates to help save lives.

USL participates in int'l benchmarking to advance STEM-Robotics program

by Macekrell T. De la Cruz

The University of Saint Louis was one of the participants in the benchmarking activity organized by First Eduspec, Inc., with Philippines and Malaysia as benchmarking sites, July 12-14, 2017.

USL representatives to the said event were: Dr. Delailah B. Valencia, University President, Dr. Emmanuel James P. Pattaguan, VP for Academics, Ms. Mary Ann A. Baquiran, High School Principal, and Mrs. Luisa B. Aquino, Executive Assistant to the President for Institutional Development and Quality Assurance (EAP-IDQA).

They were joined by representatives from fellow CICM schools as Saint Louis University (Baguio City), Saint Mary's University (Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya), and Saint Louis College (San Fernando, La Union), and from non-CICM schools.

The school leaders' benchmarking site in the Philippines was PAREF Southridge in Alabang, Muntinlupa City, where they were presented with the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) with Robotics experience of said basic education school.

Representatives from two

other basic ed schools, Elizabeth Seton School (Las Piñas City) and Claret School of Quezon City, presented at PAREF Southridge their respective Robotics program implementation.

In Malaysia, the benchmarking sites were: SJK C Kuen Cheng 2,

SJK C Lai Meng, Tunku Abdul Rahman University College (TAR UC), and Eduspec Holdings Berhad (Eduspec) STEM Room.

As an information technology (IT) education provider in Asia, Eduspec caters to the STEM programs of the Philippine and Malaysian schools visited.

The benchmarking participants observed the STEM Computer

Science (CS) classes of SJK C Kuen Cheng 2, SJK C Lai Meng, and TAR UC.

Each of the visiting Philippine schools signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with TAR UC for academic partnership, capping the delegates' benchmarking in said university.



PAREF Southridge



SJK C Kuen Cheng 2



SJK C Lai Meng



Tunku Abdul Rahman University College (TAR UC)



TAR UC



TAR UC

My USA Tour

Emmanuel James P. Pattagan, Ph.D. | Vice-President for Academics

I am blessed to have been part of a group of Filipinos who visited the United States of America last November 5-17, 2017. It was September 22, 2017, a day before my 48th birthday, when Rex Bookstore announced that I would be one of 22 educators to join the USA Study Tour. I thanked the Lord for this. In Psalm 7:17-18:1, "I will give thanks to the LORD because of His righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High. O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens."

The Call/ The Mission

Rex Bookstore, as an advocate of "*Para sa Bata*" with premise on an African proverb that goes "It takes a village to raise a child," took a smart step to gather school leaders in the entire country to understand how this philosophy is realized at a global scale, and hence the move to have a first-hand experience of two educational development giants based in the United States, ASCD and P21.

The Objectives of the US Study Tour

Four objectives were set by Rex Bookstore and were fully realized. The first was to CONVENE a team of top-performing Philippine schools to interact with global experts in the whole child and 21st century learning frameworks. Second was to CONVERSE with leaders, teachers, and learners in whole child/21st century learning exemplar schools in Washington DC, Virginia, Maryland, and New York. Third was to COLLABORATE with participants and resource persons to operationalize the two frameworks in the Philippine context. Fourth was to CREATE a network of Philippine schools who will champion the two learning frameworks vis-à-vis education reform initiatives in the Philippines.

What is this trip to USL?

Of value to USL is the challenge to become an exemplar school for Whole Child concept and 21st Century Education, both of which are things we have envisioned to be fully achieved by 2020.

As the study tour progressed, I realized that our participation is of added value to us especially when we finally become a Whole Child and 21st Century Learning Exemplar School. This would mean we will be able to establish ourselves as a benchmark for the two global movements and at the same time increase our access to resources and opportunities afforded to exemplar schools. Some of these include being able to be tapped as resource for professional development initiatives for teachers and leaders of other schools.

The ASCD has recently launched a campaign called WC4WW or Whole Child for the Whole World which is translated in the Philippine context as Rex's "*Para sa Bata*" campaign. This complementarity has led to the proposition of making the tools and resources of ASCD accessible to Philippine

schools through its strategic partner, Rex Bookstore.

ASCD's whole child framework has in the middle the image of the whole child. Five tenets are expected to be present in schools so that they could yield such outcome. They are safe, healthy, engaged, supported, and challenged. By coordinating policy, progress, and practice in schools using these tenets, the school as a "village" becomes more prepared to focus on learner-centeredness.

After the brief encounter with ASCD, I realized that we in USL are not behind as we likewise have our own Kaibigan ng Kalikasan Program which advocates clean, healthy, orderly, safe, and friendly Louisiana Environment.

The ASCD experience taught me that the focus of the classroom and the campus is the child who is provided every opportunity to learn best.



At P21, I was exposed again to lessons I have only met in books, to be shared straight to us from the advocates themselves. We learned from the P21 framework how four specific aspects of school-wide development may be enhanced through the integration of 21st century skills, themes, and disciplines. One thing that was important in this framework is the focus on connecting the skills, themes, and disciplines to the demands of the evolving employment landscape at a global scale.

Much like the ASCD school visits, the P21 exemplar school visits were fully appreciated by the participants. The P21 school visits lasted for a whole day.

From P21, I was able to confirm what I have lectured in Myanmar about the 21st century learner, the classroom and the teacher. I also confirmed what my wife wrote as a dissertation on 21st century learners.



As if the Washington DC leg of the Study Tour wasn't enough as a learning experience, we managed to be certified at the Schoolology Headquarters in New York. Schoolology is a learning management system that Rex Bookstore promoted in the Philippines primarily because it is also a school leadership and management platform. Based on our learning experiences in Washington, the

availability of data-generating structures in schools is necessary in ensuring that whole child and 21st century indicators are effectively monitored and maximized. It is worthy to note that one of the founders of Schoolology is a Filipino. We are again blessed to have met him.

Some Directions to Take

The first is for us to try using the free individual or institutional rubrics of ASCD and P21 to assess how far or near we are in terms of implementing the two phenomenal frameworks. Rex Bookstore has committed to provide continuing learning sessions relative to this.

Through the use of the available tools, we could move forward towards analyzing the results vis-à-vis our institutional strategic plans and our school accreditation reports. Note that we are not introducing a new accreditation process. It is intended to complement and enrich our initiatives towards realizing accreditation recommendations and general institutional strategic directions.

From the alignment of the analysis to our strategic plans and accreditation reports, we could move towards planning and carrying out concrete steps relative to the analysis made about whole child, 21st century learning, and our school development directions.

And as mentioned earlier, this engagement will now allow us to maintain ties with the network of Philippine schools who have undergone the training and facilitate learning sessions and focused meetings with them.

The study tour has enabled the participating schools to adopt the consciousness of connecting and complementing than competing. This is something Philippine schools should really start doing so that eventually we could be collective.

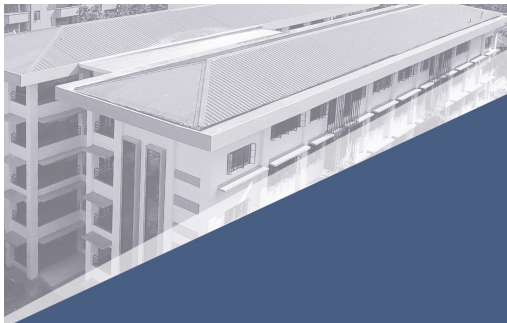
Finally, through the network of schools that this opportunity has given birth to, we desire to take part in the cultivation of a culture of evidence-based practice in schools at the levels of leading, teaching, and learning. Both ASCD and P21 are eager to engage Philippine schools in generating and analyzing global data relative to the implementation of the tenets of and indicators of the whole child and 21st century learning frameworks.

Gratitude

Thank you USL and Rex Bookstore for the rare opportunity. I know deep in my heart and mind that I will not fail you in my zest to promote the WHOLE CHILD concept and that of P21.

Having said this, may I take the chance to end by articulating one of the things that the US Study Tour team has realized: In our effort towards making our schools truly learner-centered and anchored on 21st century skills, we must remember that "Individually, we are one drop, but together, we are an ocean."





The University of Saint Louis is a Catholic institution founded by the *Congregatio Immaculati Cordis Mariae* (CICM) or the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary which espouses the CICM Philippines Education Vision – the integral human formation of the youth to become mature Christians and responsible members of the Church and society. USL is one of the CICM schools in the country. It lives by its core values of Christian Living; Excellence; Professional Responsibility; Social Awareness and Involvement; and Innovation, Creativity and Agility.



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(BSEd Mathematics)
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(BSEd Social Studies)
Bachelor in Secondary Education major in Science
(BSEd Science)
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Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (with Legal Studies)
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