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USL NEWSLETTER

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

PAASCU awards accreditation to 9 higher ed programs

by Macekrell T. De la Cruz

Nine higher education programs of the University received accreditation from the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU), bringing the total number of PAASCU-accredited programs of the University to 22.

Reaccreditation Status was awarded to the Civil Engineering and Electrical Engineering programs with validity from May 2020 until May 2025.

To pursue the renewal of the Level IV Accreditation Status of seven of its curricular

programs, Civil Engineering included, the University is to submit to PAASCU the required application documents.

The six programs earlier earning Reaccreditation Status and also subject for renewal of their Level IV Accreditation Status are: Accountancy, Business Administration, Psychology, Political Science with Legal Studies, Elementary Teacher Education, and Secondary Teacher Education.

Meanwhile, the Electrical Engineering program, being given two consecutive times of Level III accreditation already,

is eligible to apply for Level IV accreditation.

In addition to the feats of the engineering programs, the Computer Engineering program recently garnered Level I Accreditation.

PAASCU visit to said engineering programs was on March 2-3, 2020.

As well as the Computer Engineering program, six programs in the Graduate School, namely: Doctor of Education,

Master of Arts in Education, Doctor in Public Administration, Master in

Public Administration, Doctor in Business Management, and Master in Business Administration merited Level I Accreditation.

PAASCU visit to the Graduate School programs was on March 7-8, 2020.

The Level I Accreditation status is valid from May 2020 until May 2023.

To ensure quality in its different curricular programs from basic to higher education, the University subjects itself to program and/or institutional accreditation. **USLN**

USL crafts recovery, readiness plan amid COVID-19 pandemic

by Macekrell T. De la Cruz

With schools caught in the clutches of the coronavirus pandemic, USL devised its recovery and readiness plan for learning continuity amid COVID-19.

Patterned from the template

for School Recovery and Readiness Plan (SRRP) issued by the Private Education Assistance Committee (PEAC), the USL Recovery and Readiness plan covers areas of concern identified by PEAC from an assessment it

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Planning series held for 'USL 2026' Strategic Plan

by Kyle S. Espiritu, Macekrell T. De la Cruz and Jef-Jef Anagaran

Strategic planning activities took place in the University this school year-end for the University's new strategic plan or institutional development plan (IDP) aptly called "USL 2026," to span from SY 2020-2021 to SY 2025-2026.

The strategic planning efforts conducted already include: (1) Three-Year IDP

(2017-2020) Evaluation, (2) Strategic Planning Survey, (3) Multi-stakeholder Consultation, (4) SWOT Analysis, and (5) Visioning Workshop. The sixth part to bring to full circle the series of planning activities is the Strategic Plan Development Workshops, slated in August of SY 2020-2021.

An evaluation of

04

Stakeholders participate in online survey on flexible learning perceptions, readiness

by Jef-Jef Anagaran

As higher learning institutions in the Philippines continue to grapple with the impact of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the University of Saint Louis (USL) administrators worked together in mapping the University's learning continuity plan as regards implementation of flexible learning scheme for school year 2020-2021.

The University took an

initial step in consulting its stakeholders through a feasibility study about the implementation of flexible learning modalities in all academic levels.

Said study aimed at assessing the perceptions and readiness of the students, parents and faculty members in adopting flexible learning. The results of the survey also helped the University administrators towards formulating results-based decisions and relevant

policies.

The study was conducted through an online survey. It was participated by 2,406 students, 236 faculty members, and 968 parents for a total of 3,610 participants.

Under the Perceptions and Readiness for Flexible Learning, majority of the parents (80.89%) and faculty members (80.51%) agreed to the adoption of flexible learning as the University's mode of instruction in school year

2020-2021.

Results of the survey under preferred flexible learning modality showed that parents (43.49%) and faculty members (66.53%) preferred blended learning.

As regards availability of devices, the results revealed that smartphone is the predominant device that is available for use in flexible learning as reported by students (90.94%) and parents (83.37%). Faculty members reported that laptop (85.59%) is the most available device they have for flexible learning.

The survey also revealed that internet

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USL crafts recovery, readiness plan amid COVID-19 pandemic

FROM 01 conducted on School Recovery and Readiness of School Operations for SY 2020-2021.

The areas of concern require recovery and/or readiness interventions, as each identified intervention requires action steps.

The USL Recovery and Readiness Plan for SY 2020-2021 includes instructional and financial recovery and the six interventions of readiness which are: instructional, faculty, administrative, financial, academic support, and physical plant readiness.

for recovery: (1) continuity of student learning outcomes in the different subject area and grade levels and (2) school enrolment and management of finance and business operations.

Among the action steps are: creation of a learning continuity plan (online learning, adjustment in course requirements, and academic calendar), review of student fees for adjustments, and development of an Enrolment Recovery Plan as to cover online registration, admission, and enrolment.

For its readiness for its Short Term and for SY 2020-2021,

outcomes in the different subject area and grade levels and (2) Alternative Learning Modes (ALMs)/ Flexible Learning Options (FLOs).

Faculty readiness action steps are towards teacher readiness for Alternative Learning Modes (ALMs) and/or Flexible Learning Options (FLOs).

Administrative readiness action steps focus on (1) school enrolment and management of finance and business operations and (2) school emergency preparedness and response planning.

Financial readiness action

mental health of the school community, as physical plant readiness action steps are for the elimination of health risks, hazards and threats from COVID-19 and other infectious diseases in the campus, classrooms, offices, facilities, and environment.

Among the action steps outlined in the readiness plan are the following: (1) conduct of stakeholders' online survey on their readiness for flexible learning, (2) conduct of faculty retooling/training programs, (3) review of workforce reporting scheme, (4) implementation of additional payment facilities, (5) formulation of a Spiritual and Mental Health Program, and (6) provision of facilities for sanitizing and frequent handwashing.

The USL Recovery and Readiness Plan contains other elements including target dates, monitoring scheme, and person/s in charge.

The USL Recovery and Readiness Plan was consolidated and completed into a document by the Office of the Executive Assistant to the President for Institutional Development, Quality Assurance, and Communications (EAP-IDQAC) in June 2020 following discussions of the members of the administration on matters regarding the plan.

PEAC is the trustee of the Fund for Assistance to Private Education (FAPE) created under Executive Order No. 156, series of 1968. **USLN**



Since the pandemic cut into the University's academic schedule in the second semester of school year 2019-2020, the plan contains action steps to address two areas of concern

USL enumerated action steps under each of the six readiness interventions.

Instructional readiness action steps relate to (1) continuity of student learning

steps are along school enrolment and management of finance and business operations.

Meanwhile, academic support readiness action steps are intended to ensure the

USL conducts parent webinar on learning modality

by Emmanuel James P. Pattaguan

In view of the University's desire to assist parents and students in their choice of Flexible Learning modality, the institution conducted four webinar sessions for Basic Education parents.

In said sessions, University President Rev. Fr. Renillo H. Sta Ana, CICM, tackled the topic "The Role of Parents in Home-based Learning" and the VP for Academics, Dr. Emmanuel James P. Pattaguan, discussed the Flexible Learning system of the University and the different modalities: Blended Learning, Full Online, and Correspondence Learning.

Each session was followed by a question-and-answer session in both the Zoom and

FB Live audiences.

USL has been implementing Blended Learning which is a combination of a learning management system (LMS) and face-to-face learning.

The four webinar sessions held were on July 17 (for Elementary Executive Family Council Officers and Class

Presidents), July 18 (for Other Elementary Parents), July 25 morning (for Junior High School Executive Family Council Officers and Other Parents), and July 25 afternoon (for Senior High School Executive Family Council Officers and Other Parents). **USLN**

PARENT WEBINAR SERIES (FOR SENIOR HIGHSCHOOL)

Understanding the Role of Parents in the Education of their Children in the New Normal

July 25, 2020. 3:00 P.M.

University of Saint Louis
Tuguegarao via FB Live



Speakers:



Fr. Renillo H. Sta Ana, CICM
USL President



Dr. Emmanuel James Pattaguan
USL VP for Academics

USL gears up its faculty for SY 2020-2021

by Emmanuel James P. Pattaguan

To ensure readiness of the University in the "new normal" or for this school year 2020-2021, the University of Saint Louis (USL), through the Office of the Vice President for Academics, lined up different retooling programs for all faculty from Elementary to Graduate School.

The retooling programs were designed to prepare teachers in adopting the Flexible Learning system which the University espouses. Students were given four learning modalities to choose from, namely: 1) blended learning, 2) full online,

3) correspondence learning – printed modules, and 4) correspondence learning – soft copy/e-copy.

USL Vice President for Academics Emmanuel James P. Pattaguan conducted an orientation on the USL Flexible Learning to all faculty of the different academic departments, on separate dates: Elementary (July 6); Junior High School (July 9); Senior High School (July 16); College (July 16); and Graduate School (July 28).

Dr. Pattaguan introduced the features of the NEO Learning Management System (LMS) to Elementary and Junior High School faculty. The utilization of the NEO LMS in Elementary and Junior High School as their online learning platform was approved this SY 2020-2021.

The Elementary faculty had their two-day **05**



Process owners, document controllers attend ISO training workshops

by Kyle S. Espiritu

"ISO Certification is a gift of sustainability, legacy, and commitment."

This was the opening statement of Dr. Benito C. Castillo Jr., president and founder of BCJA Company during the ISO (International Organization for Standardization) Internal Audit Training Workshop on Jan. 22-24, 2020 in Sta. Ana, Cagayan.

Sixteen select "process owners" underwent the three-day intensive training called "Auditing Skills on ISO 9001:2018."

The training involved three M's: (1) Mindset which allowed the trainers to have a strategic understanding of ISO 9001 Quality Management System and Internal Audit requirements; (2) Mastery which focused on Specific Application and Techniques of a Management System Audit; and (3) Maturity which featured Sustaining a

Value-Adding QMS Internal Audit Program for Continual Improvement.

The workshop provided avenues for the trainers to be accustomed with the ISO 9001:2015 standards through series of case analyses and presentations. The third day concluded with a written exam that would qualify the trainers in becoming ISO internal auditors of the University.

Ms. Deigh Anne A. Agustin, University chief accountant and one of the trainers, said, "ISO Internal Audit is not fault-finding. It is a way for us to know our areas for improvement. Thus, as a member of the organization, one must be humble and collaborative enough to accept corrections and corrective actions."

"To be ISO certified, all the departments, units and offices of the University should really work as a team. No **04**

Planning series held for 'USL 2026' Strategic Plan

FROM 01 the existing three-year IDP dubbed "USL 2020," was undertaken in the Short Term of 2020 through the Institutional Development, Quality Assurance, and Communications (IDQAC) Office, which used reports from different University units for said purpose.

"[The review] was necessary as part of the University's decision-making strategy," said Ms. Luisa B. Aquino, Executive Assistant to the President (EAP) for IDQAC, stressing comprehensiveness and evidence-based quality of plans and policies to be formulated under the next strategic plan.

Stakeholders' involvement

An online Strategic Planning Survey involving 578 respondents from different groups was conducted from July 13 to July 30. Said respondents came from the USL administration, board of trustees/ members of the incorporation, academic partners, parents, students, retirees/former employees, alumni, and teaching and non-teaching staff.

The survey gathered stakeholders' feedback on areas the University espouses and on functions it carries out as an educational institution.

Stakeholders' ratings and opinions in the survey are meant to provide reflective points for the University to reinforce certain areas and consider changes or improvements as it will chart a new strategic plan.

Meanwhile, the virtual Multi-stakeholder Consultation held on July 15, 2020 involved

resource speakers from different partner agencies who presented their plans for the succeeding years and emphasized on the academic updates that may affect higher educational institutions (HEIs).

The pool of sharers from the invited academic agencies was composed of the following: Dr. Almacita P. Abrigo, OIC, Chief Education Specialist (Commission on Higher Education); Mr. Don R. Dela Cruz, Education Supervisor II (CHED); and Mr. Romel B. Costales, Education Program Supervisor (Department of Education).

Also from other identified agencies were Ms. Djonimar Lo Dumlaog, Supervising Economic Development Specialist (National Economic and Development Authority); Dr. Teresita A. Tabaog, Assistant Regional Director for Technical Operation Services (Department of Science and Technology); and Ms. Elizabeth U. Martinez, Senior Labor and Employment Officer and Employment Unit Head (Department of Labor and Employment).

Members of the Extended Advisory Board and heads of offices attended the consultation.

SWOT analysis and visioning

University administrators and managers also convened

on July 21-22 at the Bulwagang Teodulfo Domingo for the SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) Analysis and Visioning Workshop.

The EAP-IDQAC's presentation of the IDP framework and results from the IDP Evaluation and Online Survey, the different clusters' actual SWOT analyses, and the University president's presentation of the strategic thrust and directions of his Office formed first part of the two-day event.

Rev. Fr. Renillo H. Sta. Ana, CICM, in particular, elaborated on the new thrust "Excellence in Mission, Mission of Excellence."

The fifth planning activity, the visioning workshop, which was held on July 22, gave rise to the formulation of the proposed University Vision Statement and a revisit of the USL Mission.

Dr. Rina M. Reyes, VP for administration, presented the proposed new Vision and Mission while Dr. Emmanuel James P. Pattaguan, VP for academics, read the proposed new Key Strategic Areas (KSA) and Strategic Goals.

President Sta. Ana led the group in reading the Pledge of Commitment to the University's Vision, Mission, and Goals.

Follow-up strategic planning tasks are in the pipeline for the completion of the USL Strategic Plan and the different units' respective strategic plans. **USLN**



Process owners, document controllers attend ISO training workshops

FROM 03 one should be left behind," Ms. Agustin added.

An ISO Mock Audit took place on Jan. 27 as an offshoot of the Audit Training Workshop.

Earlier on Jan. 10, 2020, the Documentation and Filing Workshop was held in the University.

At the workshop, Mrs. Luisa B. Aquino, executive assistant to the [University] President (EAP) for Institutional Development,

Quality Assurance and Communications (IDQAC), provided a discussion on Institutional Quality Policy; ISO Documentation Fundamentals; Quality Objectives and Plans; and Master list of Documents.

University process owners and document controllers, who have their respective responsibilities according to ISO standards, attended said ISO activity.

Editor's note: The author, who is the University Publishing director, is himself a process owner. **USLN**

CHED, FDP graduate USL faculty-scholars

The year 2019 saw the graduation of four faculty members in their respective graduate school programs under Commission on Higher Education (CHED) scholarship and the University's Faculty Development Program (FDP).

For his doctoral, Dr. Benedict D. Sy, ITE faculty and graduate program coordinator for the University of Saint Louis (USL) Master in Information Technology (MIT) and MSIT programs, finished Doctor of Information Technology at Saint Paul University Philippines in June 2019.

Architect Ma. Eleanor C.

Lucero, Architecture program chair, did her Master of Architecture major in Urban

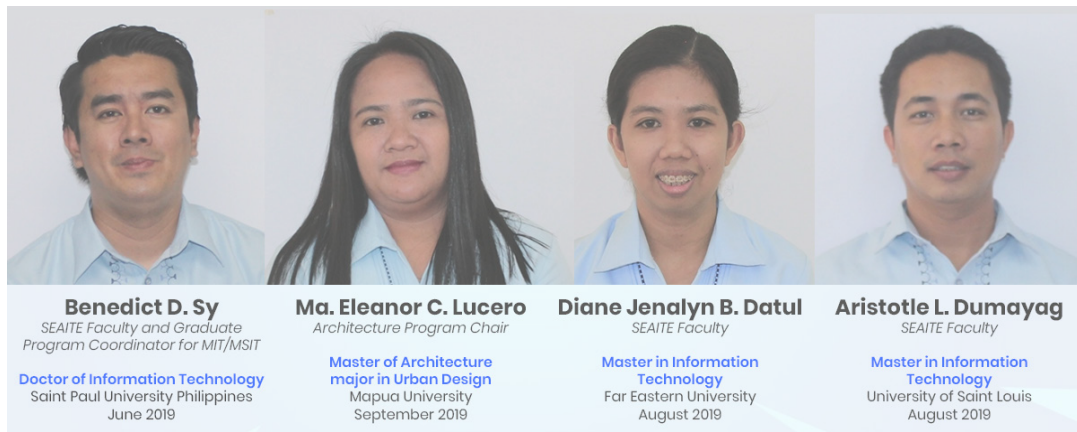
Design in Mapua University and graduated in September 2019.

Both Sy and Lucero took said graduate studies under Commission on Higher Education (CHED) scholarship and the University's Faculty Development Program (FDP).

Additionally, two ITE faculty

members were conferred their MIT degrees in August 2019, namely: Ms. Diane Jenalyn B. Datul (Far Eastern University) and Mr. Aristotle L. Dumayag (USL).

All four faculty are with the USL School of Engineering, Architecture, and Information Technology (SEAITE). **USLN**



USL gears up its faculty for SY 2020-2021

FROM 03 LMS seminar-workshop last July 6-7 with Mr. Sander T. Sedano and Mr. Jerome S. Miguel, head and assistant head of the Center for Learning Management System, respectively, as resource persons. The Junior High School faculty also underwent similar training last July 9-10.

The Senior High School, College and Graduate School have been using the LMS since its pilot implementation last August 2017. Said online learning platform is used as supplemental tool for student learning.

Other resource persons for the LMS training were Mr. Herbert S. Corpuz, dean of Student Affairs and Services, and Mr. Ertie C. Abana, head of the Center for Engineering Research and Technology Innovation.

Mr. Corpuz shared on how to embed voice in PowerPoint



presentation while Mr. Abana presented the use of Google Form for assessment. The Elementary and Senior High School faculty had their training with Mr. Corpuz and Mr. Abana last July 6 and 16, respectively; the College faculty with Mr. Corpuz on July 16.

Moreover, the Basic Education, College and Graduate School faculty had their seminar on Module Writing for Correspondence Learning also in July. Other retooling activities, like sharing of online LMS exemplar, and an online seminar on digital skills in the new normal were likewise pushed through.

Except for the LMS training of the Elementary and Junior High School faculty, all retooling programs were held online through Zoom Cloud Meeting. The University strictly followed the government's health protocols on mass gathering wherein social distancing and wearing of face masks were observed during the said LMS training.

Other programs are also in the pipeline to further enhance faculty skills in delivering education through the Latest Pedagogical Skills Training as well as the coaching of new faculty in the new normal via the

already launched *Project TITSER*.

Project TITSER stands for Tenured Teacher Inspiring Temporary Teacher towards Sustained, Enhanced and Rewarding educational experience. Launched in SY

2019-2020, the said project aims at establishing a mentor-mentee relationship among tenured and probationary faculty. (Read: *USL launches Project TITSER at <http://usl.edu.ph/usl-launches-project-titser>*). **USLN**

Graduate School opens semester with student orientation, faculty seminar

The Graduate School students enrolled this second semester had their orientation on University policies, programs and services last Jan. 18 at the Bulwagang Teodulfo Domingo. They also listened to a talk titled "Surviving Graduate Education: Managing Stress and Time in the Graduate School." Concerned unit heads

in the University and Dr. Febe Mari G. Paat, a guidance director, served as the speakers.

Simultaneously, the Graduate School professors attended the seminar on Course Design and Delivery at the Bulwagang Andres Nowe. Dr. Marites G. Tumaliuan, Human Resource and Organizational Development consultant, served as the resource person. **USLN**



Fr. Khonde lauds University's efforts in upholding CICM mission

by Jef-Jef Anagaran

Members of the University of Saint Louis (USL) administration and some other employees welcomed Rev. Fr. Charles Phukuta Khonde, CICM, superior general of the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (CICM) on Tuesday night, March 10, at the Bishop Wenceslao S. Padilla, CICM Learning and Mission Hall.

In his message, Fr. Khonde expressed his appreciation to the University for its efforts not only in inculcating good values to its learners but also in upholding the CICM mission.

“That solidarity, that compassion, that attention to the needs of one another especially the young ones who come here to get educated, to help them grow, and so I sincerely

appreciate your collaboration, your participation in the CICM mission,” Fr. Khonde said.

The 54-year-old superior general emphasized that everyone must walk together and try to be attentive to reach one another towards catering both young and adult children.

“They need guidance. They need models. They need examples. All of us are in fact entrusted of that mission. We try to see not only to give numbers and words here in the head but also how can we form the hats of those young people. And that in itself is a ministry—it is not a joke—it is a ministry when you have to form those hats of young people who come here.”

Fr. Khonde likewise said that it is a beautiful mission to give and pass knowledge, but he stressed that everyone must involve himself/herself in the formation of the image of the

children towards becoming good people for their families and for the society.

“So, having said that, I can only promise you that I will not forget this moment that we spend together. You will be in my prayers, and I hope that you also pray for the CICM missions,” he added.

Fr. Khonde thanked the Louisian community for their love and care to and appreciation and acceptance of Fr. Neil.

“But to be here by himself, it is easier when he is loved, cared, appreciated and accepted—and

assigned to the U.S. province where he continued to study English and Spanish.

The current CICM superior general also studied Theology at the Oblate School in San Antonio, Texas. He completed a yearlong pastoral internship at St. Martin de Porres Church in Alton, Texas.

On May 8, 1999, Father Khonde was ordained to the priesthood at St. Martin de Porres Church. His first appointment was in Our Lady Queen of Angels Church where he served as parochial vicar until June 2002.



that what keeps us moving.”

“Many of us live in faraway from the mountains in Guatemala, Haiti, Congo or Cameroon. But again, with the help, support and appreciation of the lay people, the ministry is possible,” Fr. Khonde said.

The superior general ended his message by giving his words of gratitude to the University for its commitment to teach young people as well as for the care and compassion that all Louisian educators are extending to their students.

The superior general's profile

Father Khonde was born on Dec. 24, 1965 in Boma, Democratic Republic of the Congo. He joined the Kinshasa province of the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on Oct. 7, 1989 and took his first religious vows a year later.

In Sept. 1993, Fr. Khonde was

Stakeholders participate in online survey on flexible learning perceptions, readiness

FROM 02

can be accessed through the use of smartphones among students (82.34%), parents (64.36%), and faculty members (86.02%).

As reported by the students (65.79%) and by the parents (48.14%), internet connectivity can be accessed through prepaid mobile data followed by broadband access and DSL/Fiber connection. Same trend was observed for faculty members.

Majority of students (62.64%) reported that they do not have a learning space at home that is free from distractions while majority of parents (72.21%) reported that their children have available learning space. Meanwhile, majority of faculty members (70.21%) also reported that space at home for flexible learning activities is available.

Based further on the results of the survey, majority of parents (57.64%) and students (61.26%) reported that they are “somewhat confident” in the students’ ICT skills and capabilities needed for flexible learning. Faculty members are likewise “somewhat confident” in their ICT skills and capabilities needed for same mode of learning.

As a result of the survey, the University is considering four learning modalities to be used for school year 2020-2021, to wit: 1) full online, 2) blended learning, 3) correspondence learning modality 1 – printed modules, and 4) correspondence learning modality 2 – soft copy/e-copy of learning modules.

All learning modalities except for provision of soft or e-copies of learning modules will be offered to the Elementary department and the Dinggin Ka Learning Center.

The study helped the University to maintain its operations as well as to ensure that teaching delivery formats will take place despite the threat that the health crisis has brought to education.

Source: Final paper of the feasibility study from the Office of the University Research and Development Center USLN

Baccay installed as new Tuguegarao archbishop

by Macekrell T. De la Cruz and Thelma C. Baricaua

Tuguegarao City - Most Rev. Ricardo Lingan Baccay was installed as fourth archbishop of the Archdiocese of Tuguegarao, January 14 at the St. Peter Metropolitan Cathedral here.

The three-part celebration at the historic Cathedral was composed of the rite of liturgical celebration, Eucharistic celebration, and canonical installation.

The rite of reception took place at the main door of the Cathedral where Archbishop Baccay was received by Fr. Bernard Corpus, Rector of the Cathedral.

The doors of the Church are considered as signs of Christ, “through which people come to God and the Good Shepherd who brings together people in one sheepfold.”

The Archbishop proceeded to kiss a crucifix presented to him, a reminder of the Archbishop's relationship with Christ, and sprinkled holy water on himself and the people gathered at the main door, the sprinkling being a recall of baptism. Then he knelt in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament and went to the vesting area to prepare for the Mass.

The rites of reception are considered as preparatory to the celebration of the Eucharist.

The Holy Eucharist and Canonical Installation

The installation was held within the Eucharistic celebration.

The Most Rev. Sergio L. Utleg, D.D., Archbishop Emeritus, started the Eucharistic celebration. The rite of canonical installation followed.

The Apostolic Letter on the appointment of the new Archbishop was read in English by Msgr. Julien Kabore, chargé d'affaires at the Apostolic Nunciature in the Philippines, and then in Ybanag by Fr. Dante Manuel M. Sabban.

The seating of the new Archbishop took place when

the Archbishop Emeritus left the Cathedra (Archbishop's chair) and led the new Archbishop to the same seat, a symbol of the Archbishop's role as a teacher, a steward, a leader. Aside from preaching from the chair, the Archbishop “should preach while seated at the chair.”

The rite of canonical installation ended with the homage and greeting from different groups, symbolic of the “bonds between the shepherd and his flock, and the respect and obedience the people of God ought to render the chief shepherd of the archdiocese.”

The Mass continued with the new Archbishop as the presider, the Archbishop being the “point of unity for the Church of the diocese.”

Meanwhile, Archbishop Emeritus Utleg gave the homily, providing his “unsolicited” pieces of advice to the new archbishop – advising him to walk the knife edge of a mountain and explaining the metaphor along various aspects throughout his homily. “Preach the Gospel no matter what by working for justice and peace,” he urged the new archbishop.

The Archbishop Emeritus also mentioned of the concerns of the Archdiocese that are yet to be given attention to.

“Walk the knife edge of a mountain literally,” he further advised Archbishop Baccay for health and wellness reasons.

Archbishop Baccay gave his message before the concluding rite of the Eucharist. He thanked His Holiness Pope Francis, Msgr. Kabore, several bishops and other clergy, individuals and groups, and his family, relatives and friends.

“I ask you to pray for me as I exercise my being a father to you all,” he appealed, recognizing the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Piat whom he called “Yena tam Ngamin” (Our Mother). “Be assured that I will do my best to serve you all to the exclusion of no one.”

Right after the Eucharistic

celebration, reception followed at the Cathedral gymnasium where a program was held with a dinner inside the gym and at the Cathedral patio.

A Tuguegaraoño

Archbishop Baccay was born in Tuguegarao City where he also attended his grade school. Called to priesthood, he attended the San Jacinto Seminary in Peñablanca, Cagayan, and further the University of Santo Tomas. **10**



Photo from the Archdiocese of Tuguegarao

Holy Mass presided over by Archbishop Baccay on USL's 55th Founding Anniversary

by Jef-Jef Anagaran

AEucharistic celebration was held on Monday morning, February 10, to commence the weeklong celebration of the University's 55th Founding Anniversary. Most Rev. Ricardo Lingan Baccay, the newly installed and fourth archbishop of the Archdiocese of Tuguegarao, presided over the Holy Mass.

“There are many things I have in my mind. Some reasons to be happy but there are many reasons to be anxious. But now, looking at you, my fear is lessened, my anxiety is assuaged because how can I be afraid if I have the Louisian community with me? Why should Ricardo be worried if there are Louisians?”

The 58-year-old archbishop recounted how the University has gone through in pushing



In his homily, Archbishop Baccay said he had many things in his head when he decided to say “Yes” to the Holy Father to become the new archbishop of Tuguegarao.

its boundaries in education—in becoming more creative and more innovative in the pursuit for knowledge to serve the world better. Archbishop Baccay likewise thanked the Congregation of the **11**



USL ‘Trending in Mission @55: and Excellence’

by Macekrell T. De la Cruz

Five decades and five years ago, the Saint Louis School was founded by the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (CICM). Fast forward, the now University of Saint Louis (USL) celebrated its 55th foundation anniversary last Feb. 11-14.

The University, over the 55 years, has not only made its niche in academics but also has demonstrated its missionary zeal. Themed “Trending in Mission and Excellence,” several events marked this year’s celebration.

Socio-cultural events included singing contests (Louisian chorale, Total Performer, acoustic playoffs, USL Boyband Group, and Louisian Kantahan vocal solo and vocal duet); dance events (hip-hop, folkdance, jump street showdown, and dance duo); cultural visual event through the Eco Show; and special cultural events (cook-off and Festival of Lights).

Sports events were basketball, volleyball, sepak takraw, softball, badminton, table tennis, chess,

scrabble, Word Factory, game of the generals, darts, athletic events (50- and 100-meter run, shot put, discus throw, and long jump), 3X3 basketball, and dance sports.

This foundation anniversary’s literary competitions were clustered into oral events (oration, “duoclamation,” extemporaneous speaking via object analysis, and duet spoken poetry); written events (essay writing, fiction writing, and poem writing); and literary visual events (shape poetry, literary graffiti, ethnicity photo contest, comic strip, short film, monochromatic mural painting, mix-media art, ethnicity painting, kalesa (horse-drawn carriage) painting, dish gardening, and flags making).

A debate cup was also held.

Meanwhile, special events included the quiz bee, quiz bee variety, and battle of bands.

The Kaibigan ng Kalikasan Program (KKP), which made up 20 percent of the overall points of each competing department, was intended to instill responsibility among the departments by keeping tidy

and clean their respective areas throughout the Foundation Day celebration through clean-up strategies and activities.

As the Foundation Day celebration came to a close, overall ranking in the different competitions was made as follows:

Per major event, the champions were SABH for socio-cultural events, debate cup, and the KKP; SHS for sports events and literary competitions; and SEAITE for visual events.

The Elementary pupils had their field demonstration on Feb. 11; the Junior High School students on Feb. 12.

The Graduate School had its participation in the Festival of Lights parade.

Meanwhile, employee participation was through coaching their respective departments’ event participants and assisting in the operation of the carnival rides.

The USL Alumni Association assisted through sponsorship of the light-emitting diode (LED) display used during the evening programs.

Aside from the amusement rides, trade and food fair booths were also an attraction for some.

A way further to celebrate the 55th Foundation, agape meals dubbed “Salu-Salo sa Araw ng mga Pusong” were served by the different departments on Feb. 14 and were shared among members of the department and with other departments as well.

Mr. Herbert Corpuz, the dean of Student Affairs and Services, describes the 55th foundation celebration, thus: “The University’s 55th founding anniversary celebration has instilled in the Louisians the value of winning together. It is through this event that we celebrated our individualities, cherished our commonalities, invigorated others to believe in themselves, demonstrated warmth for our visitors and other stakeholders, and shaped our joys as a community.”

In consultation with the University Administration, the Office of the Student Affairs and Services (OSAS) and the Supreme Student Council (SSC) were at the helm during the celebration. **USLN**



CHAMPION SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL (SHS)

1ST RUNNER-UP

School of Engineering, Architecture, and Information Technology Education (SEAITE)

2ND Runner-up

School of Accountancy, Business and Hospitality (SABH)

3RD Runner-up

Junior High School (JHS)

4TH Runner-up

School of Education, Arts and Sciences (SEAS) and School of Health and Allied Sciences (SHAS) combined to become SEASH



Lente Likha's 'Disconnected' wins big at 3rd MSFF

by Macekrell T. De la Cruz

If getting disconnected is a way to reconnect, that's what *Disconnected* could send across.

Lente Likha Productions of the University of Saint Louis Senior High School (USL-SHS) showed off anew its filmmaking craft after receiving two top awards in the 3rd Manila Student Film Festival (MSFF) held at International School Manila – Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City on Feb. 1, 2020.

Disconnected, a little over four-minute short film, won the Best Film award under the age group category of 15-18. It further amassed viewers' votes to take home the Audience Choice award, beating all other

finalists in all contested age group and genre categories for the latter feat.

Set in USL, the story is about a group of Senior High students that finds frustration



USL-SHS representation at the 3rd MSFF (Photo courtesy of McKevin Romualdo)

in completing a school work, but discovers a eureka moment after another group of students invites them to a group sport.

The film was directed and edited by Ven Gabriel Potang and written by Kathleen Orpilla.

Cinematography was by Kate Pagulayan, translation and subtitles by Carl Lucas Empedrad, and film scoring by Scott Lagmay.

Cast includes Edilbert Philip Garcia, Mitzi Managuelod, Pearl Calucag, Trisha Binondo, Karlyne

Duran, Kristine Catindoy, Aileen Guiyab, Keith Escobar, Jenielyn Langcay, Xyfrid Abella, and Joseph Graham Long.

Film consultant is Mr. McKevin Romualdo, who also serves as adviser of Lente Likha Productions.

Lente Likha now has a winning streak for the MSFF Audience Choice award, as *Ednis*, its first film entry to the competition, won the prize in 2019.

International School Manila organizes the MSFF. **USLN**



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Baccay installed as new Tuguegarao archbishop

FROM 07 He was ordained priest in 1987 at the St. Peter Metropolitan Cathedral. He had various assignments in the Archdiocese of Tuguegarao from 1987-2016 such as Catechetical director; parish priest of certain parishes in Tuguegarao and in Solana, Cagayan; rector of the San Jacinto Seminary; and overall director of the Commission on Christian Formation.

In 2016, he was appointed as third bishop of Alaminos, Pangasinan.

He also has held various assignments in the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) and presently the Regional Chairman for Youth; Chairman of the Episcopal Office on Bioethics; and Regional Representative of the Northern Luzon CBCP Permanent Council.

His Holiness Pope Francis appointed Most Rev. Baccay as



The clergy, religious and lay people attend the Eucharistic Celebration and Installation of Most Rev. Ricardo L. Baccay at the St. Peter Metropolitan Cathedral.

Archbishop of Tuguegarao on Oct. 18, 2019.

Archbishop Baccay's episcopal motto is *Pater Benignus ad Omnes* (The Father is kind to all) with reference to the nature of God. The motto appears in the Archbishop's coat of arms.

He uses the pastoral staff

or crozier first used before by the Most Rev. Constant Jurgens, CICM, former bishop of Tuguegarao.

As head of a Metropolitan Archdiocese, Archbishop Baccay serves the province of Cagayan and oversees the bishops of Batanes, Ilagan, Bayombong, and Tabuk.

The diocese of Tuguegarao was established in 1910 and elevated as archdiocese in 1974. The St. Peter Metropolitan Cathedral is the seat of the Archdiocese.

Reference:

Liturgy of the Canonical Installation of Archbishop Ricardo L. Baccay USLN

March 1 is Campus Ministry Day

by Kyle S. Espiritu

Strengthening USL's campus ministry and animating more Louisians in the spirit of service, the Pastoral Council, through the Campus Ministry Office, organized the "Campus Ministry Day" on March 1, 2020.

With the theme "Mission

Animation: Faith in Motion, Vigor in Adoration," 282 students from the Basic Education units and College were given inspiration and motivation to continuously serve the Church and the Louisian community.

The activity commenced with a Holy Eucharistic celebration presided by Rev.

Fr. Emanuel Enjang Pranatal, CICM, University chaplain.

The Mass was followed by a ministry talk about evangelization and discipleship by Rev. Fr. Renillo H. Sta. Ana, CICM, University president, and the team-building activities and animation that drew Louisians in the spirit of service to God.

Ledd Merr V. Umoso, Supreme Student Council (SSC) Religious coordinator, described the event according to its focus.

"The Campus Ministry Day

had two facets leading to its goal, namely: (1) Spiritual Formation, which is contemplative in nature but carries themes of social responsibility; and (2) Formation on Social Awareness and Involvement, which is shaped by the perspective of faith."

"It [the Campus Ministry Day] is very relevant because it allows us to improve ourselves in our Christian journey and draws us closer to the Lord," the student leader also said. USLN



USL backs CICM efforts for COVID-19 relief; Louisian aid groups in relief ops

Tuguegarao City – Joining other CICM (Congregatio Immaculati Cordis Mariae) groups who made their respective donations, the University of Saint Louis (USL) donated one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000) from its Mission Fund, through the CICM Philippines, to the CICM-Maryhill School of Theology (MST) Caritas Kindness Station, which is spearheaded by Fr. Rene C. Cabag, CICM, chairman of the Provincial Commission on Mission.

In collaboration with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines – National Secretariat for Social Action (CBCP-NASSA)/ Caritas Philippines, a mission program was held to help affected families in vulnerable communities as well as to support medical frontliners amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

Aid for students

Manifesting the spirit of bayanihan (civic unity) and responding to the immediate needs of stranded Louisian students during the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) period, USL distributed relief goods to 30 students on April 1.

The activity was spearheaded by the University President, Rev. Fr. Renillo H. Sta. Ana, CICM, along with the Office of the Vice President for Finance, the Community Engagement and CICM Advocacies Office (CECAO), the Office of Student Affairs and Services (OSAS), Active Louisian Emergency Response Team (ALERT), and Supreme Student Council (SSC).

Instructors' initiatives

Calling themselves Team BESHY, Engr. Ariel Lorenzo, Ms. Pearly Joy Tamboa, and Ms. Rizza Velasco initiated relief operations in Cagayan and nearby provinces amid the pandemic.

Having pooled donations from some USL employees, groups, students, and other

individuals, the group kicked off their operations on March 30 with their distribution of snacks and masks to frontliners in the Cagayan Valley Medical Center (CVMC), Holy Infant Hospital, Tuguegarao City People's General Hospital, and Dr. Domingo S. De Leon General Hospital (formerly Clinica de Leon). Recipients were health workers, janitors, and security guards.

March 31 saw the group's giving of snacks and masks to almost 150 frontliners in

highways in Tuguegarao City and Solana, Cagayan; security guards in CVMC; and staff of the



Tuguegarao City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office.

The relief operations continued to run thereafter until April 25.

Aside from snacks and masks, also given for relief were lunch packs, grocery packs, hygiene kits, and raincoats.

In summary, the drive reached out to Tuguegarao City, 16 towns in Cagayan, three (3) towns in Isabela, and a town in Ilocos Sur.

The team, with volunteer assistants, continued to receive donations as they went on with their relief drive in aim to help individuals and families tide over their particular

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Holy Mass presided over by Archbishop Baccay on USL's 55th Founding Anniversary

FROM 07

Immaculate Heart of Mary (CICM) for its influence towards forming young minds and young hearts to become disciples of Christ.

The archbishop urged the Louisian community to practice the culture of praying like what Mary did when Jesus visited her and Martha in Bethany.

"Sometimes, we tend to be attuned to working rather than praying. As a Catholic institution and based on today's Gospel, we do not only work; we need to pray," he added.

The archbishop, however, clarified in his homily that everyone needs Martha and Mary in his or her life. He emphasized that everyone must have them both: Martha who focuses on the skills and functions that everyone should do in his or her life as well as Mary who is gifted with serenity and ability to be present to God and to others.

"In this culture of hectic schedules and relentless pursuit of endless

productivity—catching with so many projects, beating deadlines—we are exposed to a world that tempts us to see our worth in terms of what we have accomplished. We are tempted to see our value in terms of how we have done and how we met expectations of others," Archbishop Baccay told the audience.

The archbishop emphasized that if someone does not have enough time to relax, pray and listen to God, he or she will end up anxious and troubled.

"We end up doing a life without meaning, devoid of love,

and we feel there is no joy."

Meanwhile, the installation of the ministers of communion, knights of the altar, and word ministry was also held during the opening Mass.

Rev. Fr. Renillo H. Sta. Ana, CICM, University president, expressed his gratitude to Archbishop Baccay and Rev. Fr. Dennis Jake Ordillos, chancellor of the Archdiocese of Tuguegarao, for presiding the Holy Mass.

At the event, the USL president promised that the University will always be at the service of the local church.

The theme of this year's Founding Anniversary is "USL at 55: Trending in Mission and Excellence." **USLN**



USL college faculty, Cagayan provincial library give free CS review

by Kyle S. Espiritu

Sharing professional expertise in the spirit of service, University of Saint Louis faculty, in support to the Cagayan Provincial Learning Resource Center (CPLRC), administered a free civil service (CS) examination review last

Current and Legal Issues by Atty. Jason B. Elizaga; Analogy by Mr. Herbert S. Corpuz; Grammar by Ms. Anjanette F. Batulan; Mathematics by Dr. Teresita Erovita B. Agustin; Basic Concepts and Tips in Taking the CS Exam by Ms. Rachel M. Surla; Reading Comprehension by Mr. Kyle S. Espiritu; Code of Ethics by Mr. Dominic B.



Feb. 15, 22, and 29, 2020 at the CPLRC.

Sixty-four (64) reviewees attended the all-Saturday sessions.

The review featured discussions on the following areas: General Information by Ms. Maricca-Malou V. Valencia; Filipino by Mr. Pablo C. Narag; Logic (Abstract Reasoning) by Mr. Alan Anthony D. Baccay;

Baggayan; and Political Science and Constitution by Mr. Domer C. Macanang and Mr. Cirilo R. Parallag Jr.

A celebration of learning happened on March 7 at the CPLRC.

The free CS examination review is offered annually by USL as one of its faculty extension activities. **USLN**

Guidance Center's SAGIP reaches out to jail inmates, basic ed students

by Kyle S. Espiritu

Sustaining the Project SHOPE (Holistic Outreach Program for Empowering adult learners), the USL Guidance and Counseling Center conducted an extension activity dubbed as SAGIP which stands for Sikap, Asal, Gawa, Intelektwal, Pananaw na Ispiritwal on Feb. 28, 2020 at the Cagayan Provincial Jail.

Around 100 inmates partook in the program which aimed at developing a sense of responsibility and maturity within oneself and towards the

community.

Themed "A Guide to Making Positive Life Changes," breakout sessions were conducted where inmates accomplished a worksheet on goal-setting and taking responsibilities. This was done to elicit their commitment towards a productive and responsible behavior towards self, to the people around them, and to the community.

Anti-bullying program

The acronym SAGIP also takes on a different meaning in

USL backs CICM efforts for COVID-19 relief; Louisiana aid groups in relief ops

FROM 11

difficulties.

Expressing her gratitude, Ms. Leah Manzo, one of the recipients said, "We can't thank you enough for the goods and inspiring message you have shared to us. We may not be related by blood, but you've shown that we are related by Louisiana love. May God reciprocate your generosity."

Meanwhile, another SEAS

Expressing her gratitude, Ms. Leah Manzo, one of the recipients said, "We can't thank you enough for the goods and inspiring message you have shared to us. We may not be related by blood, but you've shown that we are related by Louisiana love. May God reciprocate your generosity."

Mr. Baggayan was assisted by his friends.



faculty, Mr. Dominic Baggayan, took initiative and distributed packed goods to 36 Louisiana students on March 29-30.

He gave out the relief goods to the students who were stranded in the City during the ECQ period.

--by Jef-Jef Anagaran, Macekrell De la Cruz and Kyle Espiritu

Editor's note: This is first of a series of stories on the University of Saint Louis' relief efforts during the pandemic. **USLN**



that it serves to promote anti-bullying awareness and foster a bully-free school.

Fortifying the Socialization and Anti-Bullying Guidance Intervention Program (SAGIP) this school year, the Senior High School Guidance Center conducted a symposium themed "Louisian Gems, Stand as One against Bullying," to Grade 11 students on Feb. 28, 2020.

PMSg Jimmy A. Josue from the Office of the Deputy Regional

Director for Administration discussed the nature and forms of bullying and emphasized the survival skills needed when bullied.

A longer implementation of SAGIP activities was conducted in the Elementary department last Jan. 23-31, 2020.

Creative Story Telling, Growth Sessions, Group Dynamic Activities, an Anti-Bullying Brigade dubbed as "PFA (Peer Facilitators' **13**

USL renews agreements with Chinese, Vietnamese universities

by Emmanuel James P. Pattaguan

In furtherance of its efforts for globalization, the University of Saint Louis (USL) has renewed its memorandum of agreement with China Jiliang University (CJLU) located in Hangzhou City in China's Zhejiang province, and Thuongmai University (TU) found in Hanoi, capital of Vietnam.

The new memoranda of agreement for both universities revolve on Faculty Exchanges, Student Exchanges, which

include but not limited to practicum, on-the-job-training programs, cultural exchange, research collaboration, conduct of short-term immersion, and cultural visit or short programs.

The CJLU has been USL's partner since 2009 with which student exchange, faculty exchange and benchmarking activities have been conducted. For Thuongmai University (formerly Vietnam University of Commerce), USL has been its partner since the last five years.

TU partnered with USL in

the hosting of research conferences a l o n g business programs.

In

the January 2020 visit of USL to CJLU, USL President Rev. Fr. Renillo H. Sta Ana, CICM, and the VP for Academics, Dr. Emmanuel James P. Pattaguan, further discussed cooperation between USL and the said universities.

An international immersion program for Engineering

students and faculty has been discussed with CJLU as to start the cooperation with the renewal of the MOA.

Similarly, an immersion of the faculty and students in the Business and Teacher Education programs will be done with TU.

Follow up on the other areas of cooperation will follow suit. **USLN**



USL becomes 104th member of B&R UAS

by Emmanuel James P. Pattaguan

In her recent visit to Hangzhou China, the University of Saint Louis, Tuguegarao City, Philippines, signed an agreement last January 8, 2020 to join the Belt and Road Universities Alliance for Standardization and Academics (B&R UAS or UAS for short).

Signing the Membership Agreement was Rev. Fr. Renillo H. Sta Ana, CICM, University president, witnessed by the VP for Academics, Dr. Emmanuel James P. Pattaguan.

UAS focuses on academics for standardization and higher education standardization. Its objectives include the strengthening of academic collaboration for standardization and the promotion of higher education for standardization towards furtherance of the same even forward.

Moreover, UAS' main activities include hosting of alliance fora for its members, deployment of exchange students and faculty, and raising of funds for publication of textbooks, issuance of academic papers, and research publications.

In a simple ceremony, the officials of China Jiliang



University, the host university of the alliance, welcomed USL to the organization, to which USL said will gladly support the activities of the alliance. **USLN**

Elementary Guidance Office holds anti-bullying event

The Elementary Guidance Office conducted on Jan. 24 the Socialization and Anti-Bullying Graders' Intervention Program (SAGIP) at the N Hall, Saint Lorenzo Ruiz Building. The Grades 1-6 and the Dinggin Ka Learning Center (DKLC) pupils attended the sessions on caring, compassion, cooperation,

empathy, kindness, peace, and healthy relationships with one's classmates. Aside from the talks, storytelling was employed to imbibe in the CAPABLE young learners certain moral lessons.

Resource persons were Mr. Dominic B. Agoot, Ms. Mary Ann Ramel Carlos, and Mr. Onofre C. Unciano. **USLN**



Guidance Center's SAGIP reaches out to jail inmates, basic ed students

FROM 12 Association) Lending a Helping Hand" were held.

Dr. Kathreen C. Josen, chairperson of the Department of Arts and Sciences of Ilagan State University, facilitated for Elementary teachers an

in-service training on "Creating a Positive School Environment: Addressing Hostile Student Behavior" on Jan. 31.

"Best Anti-Bullying Awareness Campaign Exhibit in Classrooms" rolled as a culminating activity of SAGIP. **USLN**



Increasing trend in research journal publication seen in 3-year period

by Macekrell T. De la Cruz

The University of Saint Louis has witnessed an upscale in the number of articles published in peer-reviewed international journals over the last three school years, with more than triple increase from SY 2017-2018 to SY 2019-2020.

Based on reports from the University Research and Development Center (URDC), a total of 19 research papers written by students, faculty, and/or research center heads were published in SY 2019-2020, surpassing the eight papers in SY 2018-2019 and six in SY 2017-2018.

The 33 research papers published in the three-year period are along different fields: business, engineering, technology, health, education, and their allied disciplines.

They were published in 19 journal titles in total, implying that each journal published one or more USL research papers.

Published in Scopus-indexed journals, Web of

Science (formerly known as ISI)-indexed journals, and other journals included in the databases of other indexing agencies, all the 33 researches were subject to publishing requirements including peer-reviews. Moreover, same papers are expected to provide an academic contribution to particular fields.

“The improvement of the University’s research policies such as on publication grants and incentives, research awards and recognition, and provision of technical assistance to faculty and student researchers might have contributed to the increase in journal publication,” Dr. Marie Jean N. Mendezabal, URDC director, said.

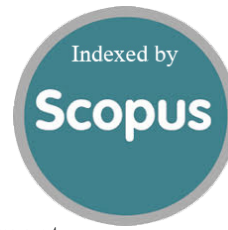
All published papers passed through a specific University research center for improvement before submission to a journal.

Under the umbrella of the URDC, the different research centers are the following: Center for Business Research and

Development (CBRD); Center for Engineering Research and Technology Innovation (CERTI); Center for Health Research and Development (CHRD); and Center for Social Innovation, Local Knowledge, and Educational Research (CSILKER).

As well as the research centers, the University Research Council also contributed for the improvement of all papers.

As part of the URDC’s plan for SY 2020-2021, Dr. Mendezabal emphasized on the continual development of research skills and capabilities of faculty and students through capability building and mentoring “to further enhance their productivity and quality of research outputs.” She further mentioned of the creation of an online open-access research website “to increase visibility and accessibility of faculty and student researches.” **USLN**



Romualdo is IYOIN guest speaker

Manifesting Louisians’ motivational skills, Mr. McKevin P. Romualdo, USL Senior High School faculty, served as one of the guest speakers for IYOIN (Indonesian Youth Opportunities in International Networking) International Connection with the topic on Mental Health in COVID-19 Pandemic and Youth Contribution.

The Special Session for the committee of IYOIN LC Malang was conducted on June 13, 2020 at 3:00 PM via Zoom.

Along with Mr. Romualdo were other speakers from the members of Model United Nations – Brunei Darussalam, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Russia,

IYOIN is a non-government organization that aims to be a gathering place for Indonesian youth to share and synergize [efforts] along “education, youth, social, and international networks” and extend the network between young adults to create positive impact to the education for all youth in Indonesia.

IYOIN is a member of United Nations Social Development Network (UNSDN) that provides a global platform for sharing knowledge, experiences and best practices in social development from around the world. **USLN**

SABH researches shed light on USL accounting culture, other curricular topics

by Macekrell T. De la Cruz

Researches of the School of Accountancy, Business and Hospitality (SABH) particularly dealing on its Accountancy and Business Administration programs reveal favorable results.

Authors of the works are faculty-researchers or students of research classes with identified faculty co-authors.

Aiming to “define and provide concrete context on the accounting culture of the University of Saint Louis Tuguegarao,” the paper “The Accounting Education Culture of the University of Saint Louis, Philippines,” discusses four themes emerging from the clustered perceptions of 43 informants, who were senior Accountancy students.

Said themes are the

following: (1) Accounting Culture manifested through Academic Competitiveness, (2) Accounting Culture manifested through the Strong Sense of Belongingness among Students, (3) Positive Elements of the Accounting Culture, and the (4) Negative Elements of the Accounting Culture.

Certain practices related to academics as reviewing for classes, participating in curricular competitions, being part of the Student Study Group Program (SSGP), and benchmarking grades are under the first theme, to which most of the perceptions belong. “Academic competitiveness brings forth positive and negative effects depending on the context by which it is demonstrated,” according to the interviewees the study reports.

Activities with peers across all year levels are cited as making up also the accounting culture. Such include moral and spiritual support to those who will take the board exams and conducting the SSGP activity.

Further, the study reveals that the USL accounting culture enhances student competence and promotes holistic formation. However, the culture is also a source of student stress and cause of social divide.

The study is published in the Universal Journal of Educational Research, May 2020 issue.

Authors are: Randell Rellin, Rizza Joice Pataueg, Renella Pineda, Josephine Sabalo, Mary Antonette Siazon, Dr. Darin Jan Tindowen (head, Center for Social Innovation, Local Knowledge, and Educational Research), and Ms. Karen Joy Catacutan (head, Center for Business Research and Development).

Mathematics and accounting

The study “Usefulness of Mathematics Subjects in the Accounting Courses in Baccalaureate Education” was made to determine the usefulness of Mathematics subjects in the accounting courses in Bachelor of Science in Accountancy.

The study found out that among the mathematics subjects, Mathematics of Investment is the most useful subject in the different accounting courses particularly in Financial Accounting, Advance Accounting and Auditing.

USL celebrates Ethnicity Week, conducts 2nd research int'l confab

by Ralph Rueco and Macekrell De la Cruz

With the theme “Re-kindling and Re-living Ethnicity in USL, the University of Saint Louis (USL) commemorated ethnicity and indigenosity through the Louisiana Ethnicity Week on Jan. 29-31.

The Ethnicity Week was inspired with the objectives to provide an opportunity to deepen understanding of the values and culture to learn to live together; to respond to the Church’s celebration in this Year of Ecumenism, Interreligious Dialogue and Indigenous Peoples; to respond to the Commission on Higher Education’s (CHED) memo number 2 series of 2019 on the integration of Indigenous Peoples’ (IP) Studies/ Education into higher education curriculum; to uphold CICM values; and to identify indigenous peoples’ concerns.

The celebration started with a

Mass presided by Rev. Fr. Renillo H. Sta Ana, CICM, University president, and organized by the Campus Ministry group.

“Rather than be divided, we should come together and dialogue and become better persons, better group, and better society,” Fr. Sta. Ana, who is also the officer-in-charge to the Office of the VP for Mission and Identity, said in his homily.

“As we celebrate our Ethnicity Day, let us bring our differences together and with our differences, how we can make our Louisiana community a better community – a community which is united and recognizes that God is our Lord and we are all His children, a Louisiana community united with all the different talents and skills, community united willing to serve one another, and willing and ready to serve

especially the poor and the little ones.”

Ethnicity Exhibit

After the Mass was the opening of the exhibit showcasing the different cultural groups at the Wenceslao Padilla Mission and Learning Hall.

Spectators and visitors were from National Commission on Culture and

and Indigenous Studies, and USL faculty and staff.

The exhibit included the Ybanag culture whose representation was set up by the Elementary department, Malaueg by the Junior High School, Itawes by the Senior High School, Iloko by the School of Accountancy, Business and Hospitality (SABH), Aeta by the School of Education, Arts and Sciences (SEAS), Kalinga by the School of Engineering, Architecture and Information Technology Education (SEAITE), Tagalog by the School of Health and Allied Sciences (SHAS), Ivatan by the Graduate School, and Apayao by the Non-Teaching



Arts (NCCA), presenters in the 2nd International Research Conference on Local Knowledge

Personnel (NTP).

Meanwhile, as the Congregation of the

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SABH researches shed light on USL accounting culture, other curricular topics

FROM 14

The other mathematics subjects rated by the student-respondents on usefulness in their accounting subjects were College Algebra, Quantitative Techniques, and Business Calculus. Meanwhile, the other accounting subjects referred to are: Cost Accounting, Management Advisory Services, and Taxation.

Also, the study presents and discusses the skills developed in mathematics subjects that are useful in accounting subjects, the highest-rated of all the skills being the use of the fundamental operations, which is under College Algebra.

Authors are Alec John Villamar, Marianne Gayagoy, Florida Matalang, and Ms. Catacutan.

The work is published in Mathematics and Statistics, January 2020 issue.

OJT to employability

Two studies further boost the research productivity of the SABH.

“On-the-Job Training Program Evaluation of Business Administration and Accountancy Departments of University of Saint Louis” and “Employability of the Business Administration Graduates of Catholic Educational Institution” were both published in the January 2020 issue of the Universal Journal of Educational Research.

“Results reveal that the on-the-job training program of the Business Administration and Accountancy is effective and well-implemented for both institutional and company provisions from pre-orientation to post-on-the-job training activities,” the authors of the OJT evaluation study, Ms. Catacutan and Ms. Alicia S. Tuliao, SABH dean, concluded, based on students’ assessments.

Meanwhile, the employability study assessed the employment status of Business Administration graduates from SY 2011-2012 to SY 2015-2016, a total of 873 of whom or 72.69% of the overall 1201 graduates in such five school years were traced.

One of the findings is that majority of the traced graduates are employed on a permanent status and were employed for an average of four months after graduation.

The authors also found out that majority work in an industry that is directly aligned to their program or field of expertise.

Furthermore, (1) communication skills, (2) human relations skills, and (3) decision making skills are the top three soft skills/competencies ranked by the graduates that they learned from the University. Said skills were rated the same in terms of usefulness in the graduates’ present jobs.

The study additionally reveals the hard skills of the

Marketing graduates and of the Finance and Financial Management graduates. The top three skills, ranked by each group according to acquisition from the University and application in the work place, are likewise discussed in the study.

Recommendations and suggestions from the graduates were included in the study for improvement of the University’s Business Administration program.

Authors of said employability study are Ms. Fe Rose-Anne Maramag (SABH faculty), Ms. Mary Ann Bartolome (SABH faculty), Ms. Rose Marie Hiquiana (SABH faculty), Ms. Catacutan, and Dr. Marie Jean Mendezabal (University Research and Development director).

Quantitative research design was used in the studies except in “The Accounting Education Culture of the University of Saint Louis, Philippines,” which used qualitative research design. **USLN**

Louisians win in health research competitions

by Macekrell T. De la Cruz

The University of Saint Louis – School of Health and Allied Sciences (SHAS) emerged victorious in the “Health Research Forum for Action in Luzon” held last Jan. 22-24 at St. Paul University Philippines.

The forum, with its theme “Going Local for UHC: Realizing Universal Health Care through Evidence-Informed Service Delivery in Luzon,” included research competitions wherein USL won major awards.

For Oral Research Paper Presentation (student category), Ms. Cerene Pearl T. Quilang, BS Pharmacy 1, won first place for the paper: “Phytochemical Screening and Antibacterial Activity of Gooseberry (*Phyllanthus acidus*) Leaves against *Staphylococcus aureus* Bacteria.”

Authors of said paper are:

Cerene Pearl T. Quilang, Nicole Yvonne B. Bagunu, Trisha Pearl C. Grande, Joshoua B. Malana, Cidney Rose A. Miguel, Dhyanne Amor Jewel S. Salvador, and Jonalyn P. Santos, MSN.

Under Poster-Exhibit Contest (professional category), Ms. Jonalyn P. Santos, faculty and head of the Center for Health Research and Development (CHRD), landed first place for “Characterization of Extracted Microcrystalline Cellulose from Pod Husk (*Theobroma cacao*) as Binder in Paracetamol Tablet Formulation.”

Manuelito Talaue, Jr., Roxanne C. Aglugub, Jaica C. Apostol, Keith Rhena M. Cusipag, Warren Kirk C. Macababab, Mark Humprey Karl S. Urmanita, and Santos authored said study presented in the poster exhibit.

Moreover, Ms. Janina C. Abad,



USL researchers with one of the organizers of the forum

SHAS faculty, ranked third for her presentation “The Application of Nursing Leadership on Patient Safety Culture.”

Abad’s co-authors are Eladio Martin S. Gumabay, DNS, Jamille S. Manuel, Zhairhen Nicole Peralta, and Hannah Faye R. Saguilla.

Additionally, in the category 3-Minute Pitch to Policy Makers, Ms. Santos secured the top rank with her presentation of “Health System Responsiveness of Primary Health Care Nursing in a Rural Health Unit of Iguig, Cagayan: A Triangulation Study.”

Ms. Santos’ co-authors are Gumabay, Shaina Rica P. Co,

Julius Ed B. Guerrero, and Sheira-Mae G. Lalan.

Other USL researchers who presented at the forum were Mr. Alvin A. Aldea (SHAS faculty), Mr. Thom Benedict Daña (IT faculty) and Ms. Diane Nina Angeli V. Pattaguan, BS Nursing student.

The forum was sponsored by the Department of Health (DOH) Region 2, through the Cagayan Valley Center for Health Development (CVCHD), and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Region 2 through the Cagayan Valley Health Research and Development Consortium (CVHRDC). **USLN**

SEAITE students show off tech skills, bag awards

by Kyle S. Espiritu

Students of the School of Engineering, Architecture and Information Technology Education (SEAITE) reaped recognitions at the 22nd Regional Information Technology and Engineering Convention (Cyber Summit 2020) held at St. Paul University Philippines, March 5-6.

David Niño Angelo Pattaguan,

Rodel Molina, Euf Hans Tangan, Denver Wayne Flores, and John Mark Enciso top ranked the Infomercial competition with Huan Lui ABCD Oreña, Kimberly Ternura, Joey Binag Jr., Althea Era,

and Pamela Luyun in tow for the 1st runner-up spot.



Gio Aquino, Andrei Pagalilauan, and Faye Diane Talay landed 2nd runner-up in the Infographics contest.

Mr. Sander Sedano and Ms. Marife Tibule, IT Education faculty, coached said three teams.

In Programming, the three-man team of Kurt Christian Lopez, Emmanuel Pangan, and Jerome Apalla placed 1st runner-up. Ms. Diane Jenalyn Datul, ITE faculty, served as coach for the student-programmers. **USLN**

USL celebrates Ethnicity Week, conducts 2nd research int’l confab

FROM 15 Immaculate Heart of Mary (CICM) has an advocacy on Indigenous Peoples’ welfare, an exhibit on CICM Advocacies was put up by the University Libraries.

The entire exhibit ran from Jan. 29-31.

The Ethnicity Night showcasing multicultural and diverse talents among Louisians was staged on Jan. 29.

International conference

the 2nd International Research Conference on Local Knowledge and Indigenous Studies was held on Jan. 29-31.

The said conference gathered scholars and educators who are into research on local knowledge and indigenous and cultural studies.

Among other specific aims, the event served to build linkages among institutions, scholars and local knowledge enthusiasts in the Philippines and in the world in

Still part of the Ethnicity Week celebration,

the promotion of local knowledge and indigenous studies as an “important tool in achieving sustainable development in a multicultural world.”

A total of 52 studies were presented at the conference, which was divided into plenary sessions.

Plenary speakers were: Dr. Shirley N. Dita of the Department of English and Applied Linguistics of De la Salle University; Rev. Fr. Ferdinand T. Maguigad of the College of Liberal Arts and Institute of Graduate Studies of the Lyceum of Aparri; Director Julieta M. Paras of CHED Region

2; Mr. Benjie De Yro of The Northern Forum; Vice Mayor Joel Ruma of Rizal, Cagayan; and Deandre Wirdana Saroinsong of Green School in Bali, Indonesia.

USL’s Center for Social Innovation, Local Knowledge and Educational Research (CSILKER) and the University Research and Development Center (URDC) organized the conference.

Conference partners were CHED; the Department of Education; International Multicultural Network; Provincial Government of Cagayan; and the City Government of Tuguegarao. **USLN**