



CBA grad tops TSU graduating class of 2024



DIZON, IVAN FERRER
 Magna Cum Laude
 Bachelor of Science in Business Administration major in Marketing Management



The valedictorian of the graduating batch for the academic year 2023-2024 received his diploma and medal onstage without any parent or guardian.

Ivan F. Dizon, a magna cum laude graduate of Bachelor of Science in Business Administration major in Marketing Management, came

from a broken family. He no longer lives with his mother and has never met his father, a German national.

"Magugulat po siguro kayo kung sasabihin ko na ako lang po ang pumunta dito at nagsabit sa aking medalya. Hindi po alam ng aking pamilya na meron na silang first-ever degree holder at may Latin honor pa,"

Dizon said in his speech.

Dizon was a scholar of the Philippine Army Finance Center Producers Integrated Cooperative. He was also a working student who tried to make ends meet as a fast-food restaurant crew and sometimes in sales.

At a young age, he was forced to work to afford shelter

and his basic needs and to be able to enroll himself in this university.

"I was belittled and judged because of my financial misfortune. But you know what? What's even worse (is), since I was a child, I did not have the conventional support and privileges that many of us

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enjoyed," he said.

"My mother is a single parent at hindi ko po siya kasama dahil nasa ibang bahay (siya). But she was the one who took care of me when I was a child. Iba po ang aking tatay dahil half German po ako, pero hindi po ako kinilala ng aking ama. Ni minsan wala po akong natanggap ni

sentimo mula sa kanya," he added.

According to Dizon, some thought he was living a "prosperous life" because he never used the term "working student" as an excuse. He did not want to romanticize poverty.

"Lahat ng trabaho at sales pinasok ko 'yan. Lahat ng hirap at sakit at pangungutya ng ibang tao, naranasan ko 'yan mag-isa. Lahat ng sigaw at pamamahiya ng mga customers, tiniis ko 'yan. Nag-aaral ako sa umaga,

nagtrabaho ako sa gabi. Kung hindi sana laging napupuyat para lang maka-survive, walang salita ang makakapaglarawan kung gaano kahirap at kasakit ang lumaban para sa mga pangarap," Dizon further said.

As the top student in his batch, Dizon also received the Sen. Manny Villar Award for academic excellence.

He marched alongside 2,171 graduate and undergraduate students at the TSU Gymnasium from July 16-19, 2024.

Add value to others

Dr. Lora Yusi, Commission on Higher Education Regional Office III Director, challenged the graduates, whom she called "Iskolar ng Bayan," since they benefited from the Free Tuition Law. She left them with three important things: magpasalamat, mag-ambag, maglingkod.

"Mayroon akong tatlong hamon sa inyo, only for the finest students at Tarlac State University. Una magpasalamat, pangalawa mag-ambag, pangatlo maglingkod. Why? Simply because you are the 'Iskolars ng

Bayan,' you have to be grateful, you have to contribute, you have to serve. We will not be asking anything from you. CHED will not be asking anything from you other than magpasalamat, mag-ambag, maglingkod," Dr. Yusi said.

Dr. Yusi shared national artist Ricky Lee's view of a diploma, an excerpt from his 2019 speech at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines when he was conferred with an honoris causa, "Yang hawak mong diploma, para 'yan sa iba. Hindi 'yan para sa'yo," which was published in Lee's book "Ang Kulang na Silya."

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Along with the other members of the Development Council Region III Center for Inter-Institutional Research and Policy Studies, Tarlac State University participated in the SUC Fair 2024 of the Commission on Higher Education from July 9-11 at the KCC Mall in Zamboanga City.

Themed "Weaving Culture and Innovation for a Transformative, Resilient, and Globally-Recognized Philippine Higher Education," this year's host SUC is Western Mindanao State University.

TSU was represented by Pres. Arnold E. Velasco, CIRPS Technical Staff Dr. Brendalyn A. Manzano, and Office of Culture, Arts, and Languages Director Prof. Marcelino P. Balanquit.

Moreover, the TSU Performing Arts Dance Troupe showcased dance traditions in the Bailes y Canciones Cultural Show - Luzon on the last day of the SUC Fair on behalf of Region III.

CHEDRO III

Director Dr. Lora L. Yusi and other officials, DC-SUC III Chairperson and Central Luzon State University President Dr.

TSU joins SUC Fair 2024

Dr. Brendalyn A. Manzano | CIRPS TSU Technical Staff



Photo Credits: Dr. Brendalyn A. Manzano

Evaristo A. Abella, along with CIRPS Executive Director Dr. Emil Ubaldo, SUC presidents, CIRPS technical staff, cultural directors, and selected students represented the region and bagged various awards in different competitions.

CHED's SUC Fair is an annual event hosted by a selected state university or college, providing a platform to honor the noteworthy contributions of stakeholders to the national advancement of higher education, research, and

development across the country. The fair also celebrates the CHED jubilee, highlighting innovative approaches to exploring the global terrain, preserving culture and the arts, and raising the standard of higher education.

Pres. Velasco installs new TSUian student leaders

Angilene B. Dableo | OPA Intern

Tarlac State University President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco led the oath-taking for the newly elected officers of the Supreme Student Council, college student councils, and the Laboratory School's Supreme Student Government on July 4, 2024 at the CASS Theater Room, Main Campus.

Pres. Velasco stressed the importance of student leaders' availability, especially for the students.

"It's not enough that you have the ability and capability

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TSU reps witness Moncada's 150th founding anniversary logo reveal

Jazzel Llanelli M. Manabat, Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan

Representatives from Tarlac State University participated in the unveiling of Moncada town's 150th founding anniversary logo on July 1, 2024 at the Luis Morales Auditorium.

Dr. Lino L. Dizon, former NHCP commissioner and former TSU Center for Tarlaqueño Studies director, and Asst. Prof. Bryan Jan S. Dizon, extension project leader for "Moncada@150," joined Mayor Estelita M. Aquino, Councilor George Michael Aguilar, Ms. Juvy Mendoza, tourism officer, and Mr. Christopher John Pabo, Moncada history book project lead, in the unveiling.

The event is part of the town's Araw ng Pasasalamat for its 149th founding anniversary. It marks the last day of the celebration and the beginning of the countdown for the 150th anniversary.

"Love is our theme for our 149th founding anniversary.



And we cannot fully express love to our constituencies without the necessary machinery and resources that fully align with our development agenda," Mayor Aquino said during her State of Municipal Address.

The town will celebrate its 150th anniversary on July 1, 2025, wherein the university's Center for Community and Local Governance Studies and Policy Development will help in preparing for the celebration

through the extension project "Preserving Moncada's Legacy: A Path to 150 Years (Moncada@150)."

TSU and the local government of Moncada signed a memorandum of agreement for this long-term extension project last May 31, 2024, focusing on publishing a book spanning 1874-2024 about heritage, history, and traditions.

The partnership will revolve around six components: archival research, cultural mapping, community workshops and awareness, Moncada cultural identity and branding, educational initiatives, and archive digitization, according to Prof. Dizon during the MOA signing.

Aside from Dr. Dizon and Prof. Dizon, College of Education faculty members Dr. Ninez B. Tulo and Mr. Christian G. Lingad, CCLGSPD's Mr. John H. Lanuzo and Ms. Kate T. Tagara, and the Office of Public Affairs, who are part of the extension project, attended the activity.



TSU, TRADOC PH Army to continue working for comm skills enhancement

Mary Joy B. Manalo

Tarlac State University sealed a five-year partnership for skills training and capability enhancement of the Training and Doctrine Command Philippine Army through a memorandum of agreement signed on July 30, 2024 at the Main AVR.

Titled "Forward, March! Communication Skills Training and Development for Philippine Army," this project of the College of Arts and Social Sciences aims to advance and develop communication skills and research and teaching methodologies in the army context.

As a long-term extension project, some CASS faculty members will serve as lecturers and consultants in



the annual training cycles of army trainees and officers from different TRADOC training centers and extension schools nationwide.

"With the so many extension services that we are rendering to our different clientele, naisip po namin na we will be having this long-term extension project to have an impact and be able to help our uniformed personnel," TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco said.

Moreover, Pres. Velasco also committed his "all-out support" to give the "very best" services to TRADOC.

Meanwhile, Col. Jeffrey Jake D. Gallenero MNSA (Inf) PA, Army Leadership and Education Center Director, TRADOC PA, thanked TSU for its dedication and willingness to share their expertise with the

army.

"This is not merely a training initiative; it is a transformative endeavor aimed at equipping our personnel with essential skills that will serve them both on and off the battlefield," Col. Gallenero said.

"This partnership will empower our officers and soldiers to become leaders, communicators, and educators, thus contributing to a more competent and resilient Philippine Army," he added.

According to Dr. Gladie Natherine G. Cabanizas, project leader and Student Development Services Assistant Director, the partnership between the two parties has been ongoing since 2016. The signing will further strengthen the relationship between TSU and TRADOC.

Eighty-eight STEM graduates of the Laboratory School received their diplomas last July 12, 2024 at the TSU Gymnasium, with the Laboratory School's Supreme Student Government president as the batch valedictorian.

SSG President Kerol Arkie Tariella, one of the recipients of "with high honors," led the graduation ceremony with a valedictory speech recounting how their batch overcame academic and personal struggles.

"Lab School is not merely a place of learning; it is a crucible of challenges and opportunities. Each day, we entered its halls knowing that we would encounter obstacles that tested our resolve. It often felt like navigating a battlefield, where perseverance and resilience were our greatest allies," Tariella said in his speech.

Tariella also shared how he grieved over the two family members he deeply loves — his father and grandmother. He dedicates his achievements and awards to Lola Fe, his "confidant and greatest supporter, who joined the Creator this year.

Moreover, he said his pain was "compounded by academic breakdowns." Grief became his silent companion

SSG pres leads LS batch 2024 as valedictorian

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag, Mary Joy B. Manalo



that shaped him in "profound" ways. He treated it as his source of strength and not as a source of pain throughout his academic journey.

"The future is not something we enter. The future is something we create. With fate as our guide and faith as our compass, let us go forth and create a future that is bright, meaningful, and full of promise,"

he added.

Tariella also lauded the "unsung heroes" of TSU whose hard work made his school days "smoother and more pleasant."

"And let's not forget the unsung heroes—the administrative staff, the janitors, the cafeteria workers. You kept the wheels turning, the hallways clean, and the food scrumptious," Tariella said.

Meanwhile, Col. Rey I. Daet, former deputy director of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Leadership Development Center, also an LS alumnus from batch 1997, was the invited commencement speaker for the ceremonies.

The LS alumnus reminded the graduates to "never fear change, embrace every

opportunity, and face every challenge with bravery and profound faith."

Col. Daet said LS graduates will write the new chapters of Philippine history.

"Sa harap ng mga hamon ng modernong panahon, kailangan niyong magkaroon ng matatag na pananampalataya at paninindingan. Ang landas patungo sa tagumpay ay hindi laging madali. Ngunit sa bawat pagsubok tandaan ninyo na ang inyong lakas ay nagmumula sa inyong mga pangarap at adhikain," Col. Daet said.

"Ang inyong mga tagumpay at kabiguan ay maghuhubog sa inyo upang maging matalino, matatag, at makatao," he added.

He also urged the graduating class to become an "instrument of change" by using their knowledge to contribute to and help society, help those in need, improve the community, and maintain the dignity and integrity of each Filipino.

"Harapin ninyo ang kinabukasan nang may tapang, talino, at puso. Magsilbi kayong liwanag at pag-asa para sa isang makabagong Pilipinas," Col. Daet said.

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Prioritizing education

Meanwhile, Department of Budget and Management Secretary Amenah Pangandaman assured the university that the government will prioritize the budget for education during her commencement speech.

"Sa susunod na taon, makakaasa po kayong mananatiling prayoridad ng gobyerno ang sektor ng edukasyon dahil po naniniwala tayo na ang edukasyon ang isa sa mga sagot laban sa kahirapan at susi sa pag-unlad ng ating bayan," Sec. Pangandaman said.



The DBM chief also shared the story of Jasper de Ocampo, cum laude graduate of Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management, to set an example of prioritizing education.

De Ocampo is a student leader, a farmer, and a working student who faced bullying and self-doubt. He juggled his time with his studies while being a farmer, an on-call crew at a catering service, and a barista.

More notable graduates

The 35th Commencement Exercises, themed "Navigating Tomorrow: A Journey in Futures Thinking," highlighted notable graduates, namely Sr. Lorna Ablog, OP, a Dominican sister and the school administrator of Concepcion Catholic School, who graduated with a Doctor of Education degree major in Educational Management, and Arvin Christian Delos Reyes, bene meritis recipient and loyalty awardee, who completed a Master of Arts in Nursing degree specializing in Nursing Service Administration.

The baccalaureate services were held on July 10 at the TSU Gymnasium with a Holy Mass presided over by Rev. Fr. Jason Aguilar.

TSU alumnus Engr. Charles G. Alingod, Eastern Visayas Regional Director of the National Food Authority, also served as the guest speaker for the said occasion.



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SOL batch 2024 top grad to Class Marangyan: 'Let us never lose sight of the reason that brought us here'

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



The Tarlac State University School of Law's Class Marangyan was conferred with the Juris Doctor degree last July 11, 2024 at the TSU Hotel, Lucinda Campus.

Legal Education Board Chairperson Atty. Jason Barlis, the commencement speaker, addressed the Class Marangyan (Marangal na Manananggong Bayan), composed of 20 JD graduates.

"Learn to make sacrifices. During this time, you must devote your undivided time and effort to pass this last remaining examination before you become a full-fledged lawyer. It is going to be difficult for sure, but bear in mind that you have already taken exams and quizzes beforehand. You are prepared for this," he said in his speech.

Atty. Barlis shared his struggles during the Bar examination in September 2001, the same time his eldest child was born as he was taking the exam.

He said the Bar examination is a "test of oneself." There will be times when

the takers will experience a breakdown and ask if they should continue with the journey.

"But remember this: no one goes to the Bar fully prepared," Atty. Barlis said.

"Excellence is nothing



without ethics. By now, you are already aware that our profession is imbued with [the] public interest, not because we are the government's favorite profession but because of the nature of our work. If you try to compare the principles you studied in legal ethics with the reality of practices in the legal profession, you will realize that theory is somehow far from the reality," Atty. Barlis further said.

In preparation for the upcoming Bar exam, some graduates received grants and scholarships for review from benefactors.

One of the recipients is Ms. Ashly Denise Calaguas, Class Marangyan valedictorian, who obtained an 89.76 general weighted average. She was also awarded Best in Moot Court and Best in Litigation.

As a scholar of the Justice Jose C. Dela Rama Sr. Law Foundation, Inc., she received the Justice Jose C. Dela Rama Sr. Award and will be given a financial grant for the Bar review center



of her choice.

In her valedictory speech, she shared how prayers and even making mistakes were instrumental in their journey in law school.

"The silent prayers we uttered during recitations had been our constant companions when we [did] not know the answers presented by our professors. Some of these prayers were answered, but most were not. Sometimes, even when we try our best, it is still not enough, but that is okay because law school is the place to make mistakes and to learn from these mistakes. We have often questioned ourselves whether we should continue the struggles," Ms. Calaguas said.

The Class Marangyan top graduate also shared the lyrics of the song 'Karera' by the Philippine girl group BINI, which says "Sino bang nagsabi na kailangan kong mauna? Hindi naman ito karera, pwedeng magdahan-dahan. Sa bawat panibagong umaga, Ang pagsimula muli ay isang tagumpay na."

"Let's carry forward this intellectual precocity and courage to stand for what is right. Class of Marangyan, our journey towards our dreams will be filled with challenges and trials, setbacks and successes, that through it all, let us never lose

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TSU joins ASCU-SN 2024

Franc Lewis R. Juanatas



One hundred eighty-three athletes composed of teaching and non-teaching employees and 19 officials from Tarlac State University participated in various sports and cultural events of ASCU-SN 2024 from July 2-5, 2024.

The Association of State Colleges and

Universities-Solid North 2024 Midyear Sports and Socio-Cultural Festival (ASCU-SN 2024) host is Isabela State University.

Twenty-one SUCs throughout Northern Luzon gathered for this annual sports event to strengthen friendship and camaraderie as embodied

in this year's theme, "Abante Norte: Embracing Differences, Celebrating Togetherness."

"Good luck to everyone. Enjoy your game; enjoy your stay at Isabela State University. Have fun and support each other. Always remember that this activity is a form of relaxation for

us," Sports Head Dr. Ligaya Gina S. Salangsang said in an interview.

With such support, TSU brought home the Ms. ASCU-SN 2024 title along with five gold, 11 silver, nine bronze medals, Mr. ASCU-SN 2024 3rd runner-up, and other awards.

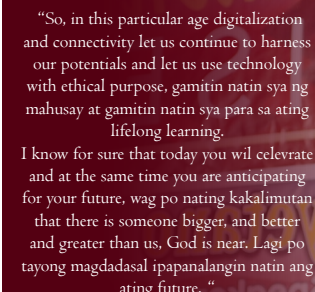


Quotes from the Commencement Speakers



DR. ETHEL AGNES VALENZUELA
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

"There will be many opportunities — choose wisely. Do not compare yourself with others. Use whatever talents you have. Magaling kang mag-communicate, you are [an] honest and hardworking person, you are confident, masipag ka — use all those God-given talents you have. Teaching may be your main profession, it may not be, but whatever it is, you will forever be a graduate of Tarlac State University, and you must be sure that you bring honor to that."



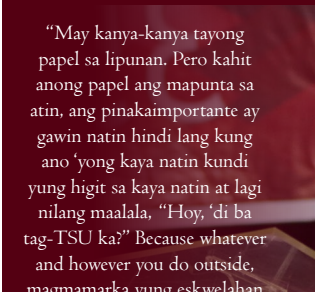
HON. PIA CAYETANO
SENATOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

"So, in this particular age digitalization and connectivity let us continue to harness our potentials and let us use technology with ethical purpose, gamitin natin sya ng mahusay at gamitin natin sya para sa ating lifelong learning. I know for sure that today you will celebrate and at the same time you are anticipating for your future, wag po nating kakalamutan that there is someone bigger, and better and greater than us, God is near. Lagi po tayong magdadadal ipapanalangin natin ang ating future."



AR./ENP EDUARDO QUINTERO
TARLAC CITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE HEAD

"As you embark on your professional journey, let your designs reflect not your technical expertise but also your passion for creating spaces — livable spaces that resonate with beauty and purpose. Let us not forget the value of artworks and designs in urban planning because, without them, our city has no soul!"



ANTHONY TABERNA
FILIPINO BROADCASTER

"May kanya-kanya tayong papel sa lipunan. Pero kahit anong papel ang mapunta sa atin, ang pinakaimportante ay gawin natin hindi lang kung ano 'yong kaya natin kundi yung higit sa kaya natin at lagi nilang maalala, 'Hoy, 'di ba tag-TSU ka?' Because whatever and however you do outside, magmamarka yung eskwelahan na pinanggalingan ninyo."



DR. CHRISTINE ANNE CARROZA LAMORENA
TSU BOARD OF REGENTS MEMBER

"Despite our generational indifferences, let us not point fingers. Instead, remember that each one of you have a voice to be heard, a thought to express, and a heart to forgive and reset. In doing so, we can create powerful ways to overcome even the greatest differences in this highly technological world. So, let us raise the toast to these students of the College of Science as they continue to navigate tomorrow, guided by their passion, driven by their intellect, and inspired by the promise of what lies ahead. In the deeper understanding that every person has a fundamental need to be acknowledged and valued as an individual, let us recognize and validate each one."

Graduation Highlights



RIVER SAJONIA
BS Accounting Information System

River Sajonia, 23, a former football varsity of the university, received his diploma despite his ongoing battle with lymphoblastic leukemia. Sajonia, one of the graduates of Bachelor of Science in Accounting Information System, had an unexpected ailment that started during the Holy Week when he experienced severe lower back pains and received alarming results from his complete blood count. He suffered from gum

bleeding, bruises on his body, and bruises in the eye. This was also his case during the university's intramurals week when he played football for CBA. He then decided to rest on their team's last two games.

Sajonia formerly served the university as an intern at the Office of the University President and the Office of Admission and Registration. He is also an active altar server at the San Sebastian Cathedral and finds solace by deepening his faith and trust in God.

He underwent bone marrow aspiration and started chemotherapy in May 2024.



JASPER S. DE OCAMPO
Cum Laude, BS Hospitality Management

Jasper de Ocampo, cum laude graduate of Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management, is a proud farmer and a working student who braved several challenges in his family and during his college years. He is also a student leader who managed to balance his time for studies while serving his college.

He also fell victim to instances of bullying and self-doubt since he comes from a low-income family. However, he shrugged off these struggles and did not mind working on a farm, being a barista, and serving as an on-call crew for a catering service to support his academic journey.

SR. LORNA ABLOG, OP
Doctor of Education major in Educational Management



A Dominican sister finishing a doctoral degree was a sight to behold during the 35th Commencement Exercises — Sr. Lorna Ablog, OP, graduated with a Doctor of Education major in Educational Management. She is currently the school administrator of Concepcion Catholic School.



BEYANNE M. CORPUZ
Cum Laude, AB Psychology

Beyanne Corpuz, 21, a cum laude graduate of Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, walked on stage while holding a photograph of her mother, Marie Grace, who succumbed to cancer last year. Corpuz said her father was surprised to see her walk with the photo. For her, this is the only way to make her feel her mother's presence during the graduation.

KIZMET ZANDRE G. PADILLA
BS Food Technology



Kizmet Zandre Padilla, a Bachelor of Science in Food Technology graduate, brought her grandfather's photograph during the graduation to relive the moments when he was always present for her school events from elementary to college.

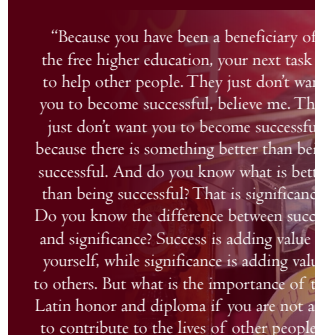
According to Padilla's grandmother, Guadalupe, 74, her better half passed away in 2021 at 73 years old.

Quotes from the Commencement Speakers



HON. AMENAH PANGANDAMAN
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT SECRETARY

"Embrace your unique qualities and use them to make a difference and drive innovation. Don't be afraid to question the norms and push boundaries. Your fresh perspectives and bold ideas are essential for creating a more inclusive and progressive society. Stand firm in your beliefs, strive for excellence, and always advocate for the rights and dignity of all individuals."



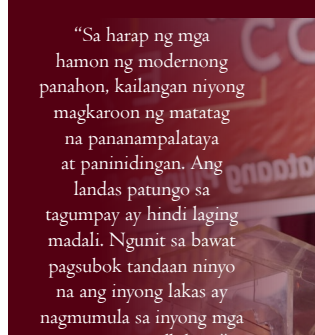
DR. LORA YUSI
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION REGIONAL OFFICE III DIRECTOR

"Because you have been a beneficiary of the free higher education, your next task is to help other people. They just don't want you to become successful, believe me. They just don't want you to become successful because there is something better than being successful. And do you know what is better than being successful? That is significance. Do you know the difference between success and significance? Success is adding value to yourself, while significance is adding value to others. But what is the importance of this Latin honor and diploma if you are not able to contribute to the lives of other people?"



ATTY. JASON BARLIS
LEGAL EDUCATION BOARD CHAIRPERSON

"Learn to make sacrifices. During this time, you must devote your undivided time and effort to pass this last remaining examination before you become a full-fledged lawyer. It is going to be difficult for sure, but bear in mind that you have already taken exams and quizzes beforehand. You are prepared for this."



COL. REY DAET, FORMER DEPUTY DIRECTOR
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CENTER, ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES

"Sa harap ng mga hamon ng modernong panahon, kailangan niyong magkaroon ng matatag na pananampalataya at paninindigan. Ang landas patungo sa tagumpay ay hindi laging madali. Ngunit sa bawat pagsubok tandaan ninyo na ang inyong lakas ay nagmumula sa inyong mga pangarap at adhikain."

LGU Gerona collaborates with TSU CCS for ICT devt

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



The local government of Gerona benchmarked six offices of Tarlac State University to improve their ICT services on July 9, 2024 at the BAC AVR, Main Campus.

Among the offices they visited are the Office of Management and Information System, Office of Human Resource Development and Management, Budget Management Unit, Accounting Unit, Supply and Property Management Unit, and Procurement Unit to learn about the university's systems and process of transactions to serve the residents of Gerona better.

Moreover, they inquired about how the OMIS resolves problems and system failures.

On the other hand,

the SPMU shared its technique in assigning QR codes to the university's properties and items for easy tracing and accessing of details.

The LGU's visit is part of the long-term extension program of the College of Computer Studies titled "Advancing Technology, Advancing Government (ATAG): LGU Gerona and CCS Partner for ICT Governance and Development."

Dr. Marlon Gamido, OMIS director and ATAG overall project leader, turned over a data cabinet to the LGU Gerona delegates, which they can use initially for networking and computing equipment.

The ATAG started on April 28, 2023, aimed to improve

applications and tax payment, among others. This will result in faster and more advanced transactions and less delays and errors through process streamlining.

Some CCS faculty members will also help mentor municipal employees on the use of technology and its system and monitoring.

Alongside Dr. Gamido, the ATAG is being materialized through the efforts of Dr. Heidilyn Gamido, component head for information systems; Dr. Edjie Delos Reyes, component head for network and hardware; Prof. Valarie Simbol, component head for training and education; Prof. Dennis Virtudazo, component head for process improvement; and Prof. Jerome Legaspi, component head for monitoring and evaluation.



Internal Audit Unit welcomes 6th batch of SUCs for benchmarking

Mary Joy B. Manalo



Two state universities visited Tarlac State University for a benchmarking activity focused on the best practices and procedures of its Internal Audit Unit on July 10, 2024 at the

Engineering AVR.

Delegates from Carlos Hilado Memorial State University and Pangasinan State University learned about the functions, structure, non-internal

audit activities, and procedures of the TSU IAU, in line with the Revised Philippine Government Internal Audit Manual, as discussed by IAU Director Dr. Jonathan A. Gabriel.

As a newly established unit, CHMSU IAU visitors led by Dr. Roselyn R. Alegarbes asked the TSU IAU staff about the experiences and challenges they encountered during their first few years in office.

Furthermore, Dr. Alegarbes and PSU Vice President for Administration and Finance Dr. Jenlyn V. Oboza thanked the TSU IAU for their generosity in sharing their knowledge and best practices.

"We are very happy with the many information, insights, and experiences that you have shared. These are what we are going to bring to PSU," Dr. Oboza said.

"Hopefully, this will not be the last that we will be communicating with you regarding (internal audit services) because we will [need] much help from you, as TSU is very much established," Dr.

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but the most important is your availability," he said.

"Ibigigay ko ang full support ko. Makakaasa po kayo na gagawin ko po ang lahat with my officials at the university," Pres. Velasco added.

He also advised the newly elected officers to learn how to become "servant leaders" to be considered a "great leader." Moreover, COMSELEC Adviser Prof. Winifredo L. Luis urged the officers to lead their respective constituencies effectively through communication and negotiation.

Meanwhile, Dr. Gladie Natherine G. Cabanizas, Student Development Services assistant director, formally introduced the new set of officers and granted certificates of recognition.

Pres. Velasco installs new TSUian student leaders



Incoming SSC President Ma. Angelica A. Fresnido from the College of Education envisions her term to be filled

with dedication, commitment, and love.

"Itong naman ang gusto ko for this academic year,

na kahit nakakapagod, kahit na nagkakagulo-gulo na, maging pahinga 'yung konseho," Fresnido said.

TSU employees took oath for permanent, contractual, temporary plantilla

Mary Joy B. Manalo (with reports from Angilene B. Dableo)



One hundred twenty-four (124) employees took oath for permanent and contractual positions in three separate batches on July 5 and July 12 at the Main AVR.

Among the 124

appointments are two permanent non-teaching positions given to Ms. Shiela C. Tabion from the Office of Management Information System, who was promoted to a higher rank, and Ms. Irene P. Mercado, who was

given a new appointment under the Internal Audit Services. Moreover, Ms. Emmery P. Balbas from the College of Business and Accountancy was the sole teaching personnel granted a temporary Instructor I

plantilla.

TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco presided over the ceremonies, with the respective immediate supervisors of the employees serving as witnesses.

In his message, Pres. Velasco urged the employees to strive, do their best, and aim for a better life.

"Let us entrust everything to God. There is always a perfect time for everything; there is also hope, and no one will be hopeless when our hope is with God," he added.

Furthermore, he also encouraged them to stay motivated for the university's success.

Apart from the face-to-face oath-taking, Mr. Oscar T. Ubusan Jr. of the Office of Facilities Development and Management took the oath via Microsoft Teams.



TSU is 'biggest' Region 3 delegation in PRG 2024 Luzon, NCR leg

Franc Lewis R. Juanatas



Tarlac State University's ROTC student delegates, coaches, and staff attended the Philippine ROTC Games 2024 Luzon and NCR Leg opening program on July 28, 2024 at the Cavite State University-Indang Campus.

The TSU delegation, tagged as the biggest in Region

III, comprises 112 athletes and 77 coaches and staff.

This is the second year of conducting the PRG, now themed "Husay ng ROTC, Husay ng Kabataan."

NSTP Director Prof. Rodel Macasaquit is thankful for the university administration's

continued support, especially the Sports Development and Management Unit, in this annual sporting activity of ROTC students.

"Unang-una, nagpapasalamat ako sa suporta ng administrasyon through the leadership of Dr. Arnold E.

Velasco (TSU President) together with some key officials, 'yung mga VPs natin, nagpapasalamat ako sa kanila kasi nariyan lagi sila to support us. And ganun din sa mga NSTP trainers and especially sa SDMU headed by Dr. Ligaya Salangsang dahil sa

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Oboza said.

Before the benchmarking proper, Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Extension Dr. Murphy P. Mohammed welcomed the visitors on behalf of the TSU President.

"We are here not only for you to learn from our institution but also for us to learn from yours. Even though we are from different universities, what we have in common is providing the best services to our students," VP Mohammed said in his message.

This is the sixth time the TSU IAU was benchmarked by other state universities and colleges for this year.

Internal Audit Unit welcomes 6th batch of SUCs for benchmarking



Pres. Velasco urges TSU graduates to 'dream big and work hard'

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



Around 800 graduates joined the Career Fair 2024 featuring the university's 38 partner companies from Central Luzon and Manila on July 31, 2024 at the Kaisa Convention Hall in Tarlac City.

The Career Education and Job Placement Services (CEJPS) conducts career fairs annually to prepare TSU graduates through onsite job interviews with invited companies' HR personnel, thus opening a wide range of job opportunities after graduation.

Some of the companies present are CS Global, Emerge Local, Central Luzon Doctors' Hospital, SM Supermalls, Megasaver, Army Recruitment, Tarlac Medical Center, LamAsia Corporation, Hann, and Yokohama, among others.

CEJPS also tapped government agencies that graduates can inquire from like the PAGIBIG, Social Security System, NBI, and PhilHealth.

"We hope that you will land a job na mae-enjoy ninyo

at pinapangarap ninyo. 'Yung magagamit ninyo 'yung four years na pinag-aralan ninyo nung kayo ay estudyante pa at makuha yung trabaho na inasam-asam ninyo. At kami sa Career (CEJPS), we are here to help our students transition from



college to work and we hope that by the end of this activity, ma-fulfill natin ang goal ng office natin," CEJPS Unit Head Ms. Ma. Victoria Mallari said in her

speech.

Moreover, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Agnes M. Macaraeg recognized the activity as a meaningful step in guiding the university's graduates toward practicing their profession.

"To all our dear students, I only want you to remember our very own core



values: Truth in words, action, and character; Service with excellence and compassion; and

Unity in diversity," VP Macaraeg said.

To inspire the graduates, TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco shared his struggles after graduation until he landed a teaching job to encourage his other siblings to study. He also recounted how he passed three licensure examinations in 1991, setting an example "to dream big and work hard."

Fine Arts graduate Kimberly Sabado said the Career Fair made it easier for her to inquire and saved her time sending applications without visiting the companies' physical offices. She said the HR personnel she talked to also advised on improving her portfolios and other requirements needed.

Sabado said most of the companies who are looking to hire multimedia or graphic designers are Manila-based, and she was glad that the university tapped CS Global and Emerge as partners.



SOL batch 2024 top grad to Class Marangyan: 'Let us never lose sight of the reason that brought us here'

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sight (of) the reason that brought us here — integrity, compassion, commitment, and perseverance," she added.

Mr. Viner Hernan Santos, Class Marangyan salutorian, a scholar of Taruc-Orencia and Orencia Law Office, who earned an 89.55 GWA, is a recipient of Taruc-Orencia Scholarship and was awarded the Best in Litigation.

"Sabi nga po ng ibang mga professors, law school is a 'walk in the park' pero Jurassic Park. It is a space full of surprises. Kasi during the study of law itself, law school is and will always be hard. We are afraid of our very strict professors, the Socratic method of our professors, and the bloody exams," Mr. Santos said.

He said they managed to overcome fear and learned that these experiences of fear helped them prepare for the upcoming Bar.

"Isa po ako sa mga

estudyante na Lunes pa lang, kabado na po ako para sa mga subjects ko sa Sabado. But the beauty of this is that when our professors taught us how to feel afraid, the experience of being afraid also taught us how to overcome that fear in every gruesome recitation we made, in every passing grade we hardly achieved," Mr. Santos added.

Engr. Jayriz Dungca, Technology Licensing Department Head of the Office of Innovation and Business Development, also received a grant from the Atienza Law Office Scholarship.

Engr. Dungca, a dean's lister, received a Leadership Award for being one of the Bar service committee heads and to recognize his academic excellence and leadership.

He also received a set of book reviewers from Rex Bookstore courtesy of Atty. George Garcia.

TSU is 'biggest' Region 3 delegation in PRG 2024 Luzon leg

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collaboration and support, and sa lahat ng tumulong sa amin. We will give them a good fight," Prof. Macasaquit said in an interview.

Moreover, Sports Head Dr. Salangsang is optimistic about the university's performance in the Luzon and NCR elimination games.

"We encourage the students na galingan nila para makapagcompete tayo sa National ROTC Games. Nakikita ko 'yung training ng mga ROTC cadet; I admire them. Talagang napakadisiplinado. Bring home the bacon and surrender everything to our almighty Creator para maging safe sila

palag," Dr. Salangsang said.

One of the PRG's goals is to encourage students to join the ROTC by holding this annual sporting event. The students who are qualified to join the PRG are those enrolled in the basic and advanced ROTC programs.

Meanwhile, Cadet Carla Jessica S. Calaber, the university's representative for the Ms. ROTC 2024 Luzon and NCR Leg, bagged the Best in Athletic Uniform award and made it to the pageant's top 6. She will be part of the Ms. ROTC Nationals 2024 as one of the representatives from the Luzon and NCR Leg.

The PRG will conclude on August 3, 2024.





The TSU administration, led by University President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Agnes M. Macaraeg, attended a meeting with the Austrian Embassy and Tarlac Province Governor Susan Yap for the Erasmus program focusing on healthcare and faculty and student mobility on July 23, 2024 at the Lucinda Campus.

EDITORIAL

A negative positive



Since former president Rodrigo Duterte signed RA 10931 into law in 2017, undergraduate students from public higher education institutions have been attending classes without paying any tuition and even miscellaneous fees in the long run. This "Free Tuition Law" was a blessing to Filipino families hoping to have their very first college graduates. However, as years pass by, reality sinks in that the country's free higher education only has limited slots not only for Tarlac State University but also for other state universities and colleges.

The free higher education law implementation gave more tertiary students a higher chance to pursue a college degree, which is a big step toward fulfilling SDG 4 or Quality Education. In a May 2024, Sen. Win Gatchalian said

enrollees in SUCs and LUCs increased from 1.6 million to 1.8 million based on the data from academic years 2018-2019 to 2022-2023. Indeed, significant achievements and milestones have been brought about by the noble law. More and more students are becoming closer to having a better future.

Yet, the "birth pains" of implementing this law ushered the university's administration in 2019 toward an uproar of college applicants who were not qualified to enroll because their results did not meet the needed admission exam quota. Moreover, free tuition slots were deemed limited based on absorptive capacity, leading to rigid figures for admissions. Since then, applicants, parents, and other interested stakeholders have been eagle-eyed in taking notes regarding the number of applicants admitted by TSU


every academic year.

Figures have been increasing, but the absorptive capacity, which refers to the available classrooms, laboratories, and faculty, remains the same. As much as the university would want to accommodate more students under the free tuition law, the target and actual data could not be bent. It seems like TSU crushed the would-be college students' dreams.

The university's absorptive capacity dictates the budget allocation to implement the law. The billions of budget from the national government are to be split by the 112 SUCs and 78 LUCs, which is not enough to cover all Filipino youth who are about to enter and continue their tertiary studies. Yet, on a positive note, there is a solution to the limited admissions. TSU ventured into

one provision of RA 10931 this year, the opt-out mechanism. More undergraduate students could now enter TSU but would have to pay their tuition and other fees until they complete their degrees – a positive-negative, as others would say. Filipino students flocked to SUCs and LUCs because of the free tuition, but now, they must pay to study.

The opt-out mechanism balances the need to respond to the students' clamor to be accepted to an SUC or LUC. Surprisingly, there were only a few adverse reactions when TSU released its initial guidelines for such a mechanism. It shows that quality and affordable education outranks the dream of studying for free. Studying has always been their goal, after all. The free tuition was just a bonus. What was thought of as negative turned out to be positive.




TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
NEWLY LICENSED TSUIAN MASTER PLUMBERS!**

JULY 2024 MASTER PLUMBERS LICENSURE EXAMINATION

FIRST-TIME TAKERS	60.78%
INSTITUTIONAL PASSING RATE	56.67%
NATIONAL PASSING RATE	47.43%

THE TSU COMMUNITY IS VERY PROUD OF YOU!



TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY

Vision

A globally competitive university recognized for excellence in sciences and emerging technologies.

Mission

TSU shall develop highly competitive and empowered human resources fostering responsive global education, future-proof research culture, inclusive and relevant extension programs, and sustainable production projects.

Core Values

- T-ruth in words, action and character
- S-ervice with excellence and compassion
- U-nity in diversity

Quality Policy

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

