

# MMSU Chronicle



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“ *Enhancing the English competencies of our students is our primary concern. We encourage the MMSU community to master the English language as a means to communicate with the world, especially as we intensify our bid for internationalization.* ”

Excerpt from the official statement of the Office of the President on MMSU being an English-speaking University



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# MMSU adopts English as medium of communication



Members of the University Academic Council convene for their 129th meeting at the mini-theater of the College of Medicine. One of their topics during the meeting is the improvement of English proficiency among faculty, staff, and students.

**T**he Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) will now use English as a medium of instruction and official communication in the university system.

MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis said this academic stand will attain its ultimate goal of developing the proficiency of the faculty, staff, and students in the English language.

“This is the University’s response to results of recent surveys and studies which show a decline in the English proficiency of Filipino students,” Dr. Agrupis said, adding that her main purpose is to enhance the English competencies of our students, which is also one of the primary concerns of the Department of Education (DepEd).

“We encourage the MMSU community to master the English language as a means to communicate with the world, especially as we intensify our bid for internationalization,” she said.

Dr. Agrupis’ declaration stemmed from the collegial stand of the members of the University Academic Council

(UAC) in their meeting last February 18 as the whole council aims to develop competent professionals who are committed to provide “our students with the right tools to succeed in an increasingly diverse, knowledge-driven, and competitive global environment.”

“That is why we have integrated an intensive English course, focused on developing English proficiency for academic and communicative purposes, in all our curricular programs,” Dr. Agrupis said, emphasizing that the enhancement of courses in science and mathematics are also being developed to boost the skills students learned in the basic education levels.

“All of these are part of a holistic approach to ensure that our graduates would have the right competencies and attitudes to not only be employable, but to become 21st century leaders,” she added.

In the light of this, even as the university pursues to strengthen the use of the English language, it continues to support, encourage, and promote inclusion, diversity, and multilingualism through academic, cultural, and research activities. These include the programs of

our Language Center, Center for Ilokano and Amianan Studies, Center for Human Movement Studies, and Sentro ng Wika at Kultura. “We continue to offer courses on Ilokano, Filipino, and foreign languages”, she added.

“At the basic education levels, we will continue to observe the principles and practices of Mother Tongue Based-Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE), in accordance with Republic Act 10533 and Dep Ed Order No. 74, s. 2009. Moreover, we continue to look for ways to more effectively and beneficially implement multilingual education and conduct research in the field in aid of policy,” Dr. Agrupis assured.

The university president, however, made it clear that outside academic contexts and official functions, everyone is free to use whatever language they are comfortable with.

“We do not mean to penalize or discriminate our staff and students from using the language of their hearts, but we are working to enhance their linguistic repertoire and equip them with a wide array of skills and competencies with which they can build a bright future for themselves, their families, and their communities,” she stressed. 

# Univ intensifies efforts to improve students' English proficiency

BY JOHN VINCENT B. TORIBIO

**T**o address the alarming decline of English proficiency of Filipino college students in the country, the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) is set to implement two new English language programs among its students.

University President Shirley C. Agrupis tapped the Department of Languages and Literature of the College of Arts and Sciences and the university Language Center to create new programs to improve students' skills in the use of the English language.

The DLL initially proposed before the university Board of Regents (BOR) to require all MMSU students to take an enhancement course called *Intensive English*. Meanwhile, the LC proposed to require all graduating students to undergo an English Enhancement Program. The two offices obtained approval from the BOR.

On one hand, the Intensive English subject, with a course code of Engl 01, is already included in all the curricular offerings of the university after having been approved during the University Academic Council last February 18. The course is scheduled on the students' first year of study, either on the first semester or second semester.

Classes will employ a holistic approach to language learning which aims to improve students' listening, speaking, reading and writing skills, with focus on communication, grammar and critical thinking skills.

In the beginning of the course, the students will take a diagnostic test to determine their level of proficiency. During the course, the students are required to maintain a portfolio showing their improvement in spelling, grammar, organization, and vocabulary. At the end of the course, the students

will again be tested to know if they have reached the B2 level of proficiency using the Common European Framework of Reference, an international standard to describe language ability written by the Council of Europe. (B2 is the upper intermediate level of English in the CEFR, by which an English user could usually say "I am a confident English speaker." At this level, students can function independently in a variety of academic and professional environments in English.)

Those who fail to reach the said level will be given additional coursework to pass the class. If students still fail, they have to re-take the said course.

Additionally, the English language teachers of the university will be required to take any of the following tests before teaching the subject: Test of English as a Foreign Language (ToEFL), International English Language Testing System (IELTS) and Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC). They are also expected to be trained on the use of the CEFR.

On the other hand, the English Enhancement Program is a non-credit course scheduled during the first or second semester of the final academic year of students in the university. Classes will adopt a learner-centered, interactive, skills-integrated, and content-based approach. This is to help

graduating students to further hone their skills and competencies in pronunciation, listening, reading comprehension, vocabulary, writing and grammar.

Like the first program, students will take a diagnostic exam in the beginning of the program to enable the Language Center to personalize a 30-hour program for identified proficiency levels. Thirty students will comprise a class to be conducted either early in the morning or after office hours.

Certificates of Completion will be issued to students who have participated in at least 75% of the total class time and have manifested improvement in their English skills based on the post-test given.

Each student will be required to pay PhP 750.00 to cover class expenses.

These efforts of the university attempt to face the challenge posed by the results of various research. The study conducted by the Hopkins International Partners show that the level of English proficiency of college graduates from the Philippines is lower than the target English proficiency of High school students in Thailand. Specifically, the English proficiency of the Filipino test-takers was at the intermediate level or equivalent to the B1 level. **(with reports from Dr. Marlina L. Lino and Dr. Jan Rich A. Guira)** 



# MMSU gets ISO certification

BY DANIEL P. TAPAOAN JR.

**T**he SOCOTEC Certification Philippines, Inc. has awarded the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001:2015 certificate to the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU), certifying that the university has an effective and efficient quality management system (QMS).

With certificate no. SCP000422Q, the MMSU's ISO 9001:2015 certification covers the university's provision of advanced, professional and higher education, research, extension and support services in its campuses in the City of Batac, Laoag City, and Currimao.

Issued on February 7, the certificate is valid until December 18, 2021, subject to the university's adherence to

the agreed ongoing program, to its successful endorsement of certification following a yearly audit and to its compliance with ISO 9001:2015 terms and conditions.

Overwhelmed with joy, MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis exclaimed that all efforts of the university constituents for the university's bid for ISO certification had finally paid off.

"This is due to the concerted efforts of all units, a proof that if we work harmoniously and conscientiously, we can make things possible in just a short span of time," she beamed.

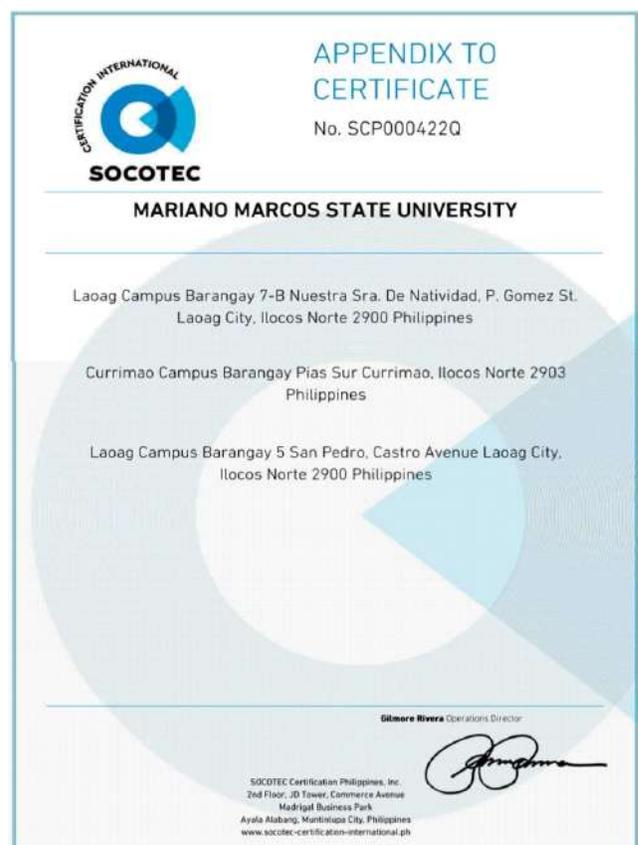
The original date of certification was December 18, 2019. However, the auditing body raised minor nonconformities of MMSU, prompting the latter to submit its

corrective action plans within 30 calendar days.

Dr. Agrupis also thanked the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) for providing MMSU training and technical guidance, which made the ISO 9001:2015 certification possible.

MMSU is one of the 19 government agencies assisted by the DAP in developing their respective Quality Management Systems certifiable to the ISO 9001:2015 standard in 2019.

The QMS is one of the mandates of the government through Executive Order 605, s. 2017, which seeks to promote and enhance public sector performance through the adoption of international standards. 



# DOST oks MMSU's P12.3-M project on indigenous plants

BY REYNALDO E. ANDRES

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) has approved the Php12.3 million fund for the Phase 2 project of the Mariano Marcos State University - Tuklas Lunas Development Center (MMSU-TLDC) in order to continue embarking the development of herbal and potentially medicinal products using indigenous plant species (IPS) available in Ilocos Norte.

MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis said this second phase of the TLDC project will surely contribute in ensuring the health of the people and in optimizing the potentials of underutilized plant species.

The first phase of the project, "Development of Anti-Inflammatory Herbal Products from Ilocos Indigenous Plants," started in 2018 after the DOST approved a Php35-million fund for the anti-inflammatory drugs research project. From this amount, the DOST initially released a PHP12-



million for the Phase 1. Immediately, the University has started doing research on at least 11 selected IPS that will be used to make anti-inflammatory herbal products.

The plants have long been known to have anti-inflammatory properties, based on their reported folkloric uses. These were identified and culled from the 46 IPS in the province that were documented and characterized by MMSU researchers Menisa A. Antonio,

Rodel T. Utrera, Dr. Epifania O. Agustin, Dioniso L. Jamias, Araceli Badar, and Dr. Miriam E. Pascua.

Prior to the approval of the fund for the Phase II project, MMSU-TLDC Chief Anabelle B. Alejo and Prof. Kristian Gay D. Beltran presented the project, "Formulation Dosage Forms from Standardized Non-Toxic Bioactive Extracts from Indigenous Plants" in an executive committee meeting with the DOST officials held at the Hotel Jen, Pasay City last February 20.

Prof. Alejo said the Phase II aims to discover and optimize the potentials of another five indigenous plants in the province for medicinal purposes.

Dr. Agrupis has welcomed the approval of the fund, saying the people, especially those from rural communities, need affordable, effective, and organic medicinal products from indigenous plant species to address health-related concerns.

Survey results showed that the IPS are grown from seven composite towns in Ilocos Norte – Adams, Pagudpud, Bangui, Dumalneg, Vintar, Carasi, and Nueva Era. **(with a report from D. P. Tapaon, Jr.)** 



TLDC chief Anabelle Alejo (extreme left) and Prof. Kristian Gay Beltran of MMSU, pose for a souvenir shot with the staff of the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) after they presented the project, "Formulation Dosage Forms from Standardized Non-Toxic Bioactive Extracts from Indigenous Plants" in an executive committee meeting with the DOST officials.

# MMSU, DA to put up onion and garlic research center

BY REYNALDO E. ANDRES

**O**fficials of the Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) met with the garlic experts and researchers of the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) on Tuesday (February 25) and discussed the establishment of an Onion and Garlic Research and Development Center in the main campus in order to elevate the status of the local products toward global competitiveness.

In a meeting held at the MMSU's FEM conference hall, Mr. Joell Lales, chief of DA-BAR's Program Development Division, said this is now the right time to address the needs and gaps of both crops amid the unabated influx of poor quality onion and garlic products from nearby countries that is annually hurting the pockets of local farmers in Ilocos Norte, the garlic capital of the Philippines.

Lales has challenged MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis and the MMSU experts involved in the research of these two crops "to come up a concept (in the establishment of the Center) so that we can act on it (immediately)."

Lales hopes that the outlined science and technology (S&T) interventions of DA-BAR for onion and garlic in the province will address these concerns as he encouraged the MMSU researchers to take part in addressing the productivity decline of both crops by generating and promoting promising technologies.

In addressing the woes of local onion and garlic producers in the province, the DA-BAR official hopes that the main role of the Center will be a nucleus of growth and development.

Meanwhile, Dr. Agrupis has welcomed the DA-BAR's gargantuan

support, through Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar, because the proposed Center will surely help farmers who are perennially beset with problems on the decreasing supply and quality garlic in the provinces of Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur.

She said the establishment of an onion and garlic research center in the MMSU campus will be another milestone to be added in the list of many development projects in the MMSU that the present leadership of DA is supporting.

Among other DA-BAR-assisted projects in the university is the Php 1.3-million storage facility for onion and garlic at the MMSU warehouse, which the DA inaugurated in 2014, as a gesture of support to the ailing industry. The facility is in line with the MMSU project: Revitalizing the garlic industry through a sustainable seed support system.

The warehouse is intended to safeguard high quality onion and garlic bulbs from pests and diseases so that farmers will have healthy planting materials for the next cropping season.

The MMSU, along with the provincial government of Ilocos Norte, DA, Office of the Provincial

Agriculturists, Bureau of Plant Industry, Philippine Rice Research Institute, and the Agricultural Training Institute, is currently helping to revive the ailing Ilocos' garlic industry by establishing a sustainable seed support project.

One component of the project is the university's allotment of five hectares from its more than 200-hectare production area in the main campus solely for high quality garlic varieties such as the Ilocos White, Cabuyao, Ilocos Pink, and Tan Bolters.

Working in partnership with the mentioned agencies, the university is stepping up moves to enhance the capability of the onion and garlic growers in producing high quality planting materials, too, so that it could sustain the garlic seed system in the province.

Meanwhile, records from the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) show that Ilocos Norte is contributing an annual share of 69 percent in the total garlic production in the country. Occidental Mindoro ranks second with a contribution of 22.03 percent, while Quezon Province and Ilocos Sur rank third and fourth with annual productions of 2.93 and 2.68 percent, respectively. 📊



# DA, Ilocos Norte agencies ink agreement for INAFES



The Department of Agriculture, Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte, and various agencies in Ilocos Norte sign a memorandum of agreement for the establishment of the INAFES.

**T**he Department of Agriculture and the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte led the ceremonial signing of the memorandum of agreement (MOA) for the establishment of the Ilocos Norte Agriculture and Fisheries Extension System (INAFES) on February 28 at the Ilocos Norte Centennial Arena, Laoag City.

Others involved for the creation of INAFES are the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU), Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Network (RAFEN), the League of Municipalities of the Philippines in Ilocos Norte (LMP-IN), League of Municipal and City Agriculturists of the Philippines in Ilocos Norte (LeMMCAP), the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Regional Office I, Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Council (PAFC), Federation of National Irrigators Association (FNIA), Small Water Irrigation System Association (SWISA), Inc., and the Coalition for Agriculture Modernization in the Philippines (CAMP), Inc.

The agreement was signed by Ilocos Norte Governor Matthew Marcos Manotoc, Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar, MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis, RAFEN Chair Rogelio C. Evangelista, LMP-IN President Fidel A. Cimatu, Jr., LeMMCAP President

Ranison C. Narciso, NIA Division Manager Danilo V. Gomez, PAFC Chairman Benjamin Y. Campañano, Jr., FNIA Chairman Rogelio G. Ceredon, SWISA President Alger S. Valdez, and CAMP President Benigno D. Peczon.

About 2,000 farmers from Dingras, Sarrat, San Nicolas, Paoay, Piddig, and the City of Batac who are recipients of the rice farmers financial assistance cash cards and other interventions from the government witnessed the ceremonial MOA signing.

Also present in the event were Senator Imee R. Marcos, Ilocos Norte Vice Governor Cecilia Araneta-Marcos, and officials from the DA, regional and local government offices, organizations and cooperatives.

The INAFES is a harmonious network of government and non-government organizations in the province that share science-based knowledge and innovations in farming and fishing enterprise for the benefit of various stakeholders.

It aims to strengthen the existing extension system in the province through the help of professional researchers and extension workers who will provide technical and business advisory services to farming and fishing communities. *(D.P. Tapaoan, Jr.)* 

## Univ, city gov't push pro-poor programs

**C**ity Mayor Albert D. Chua and MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to jointly implement pro-poor programs last February 3 at the *Sangguniang Panlungsod* Session Hall.

Titled *Plano* and *Pasilaw*, the programs allow families in the City of Batac to avail free services of the MMSU engineers, particularly for structural, plumbing and electrical plans.

Under the agreement, the city government's Building Office shall refer qualified applicants of the two programs to MMSU for the free consultation services. The departments of Civil Engineering and Electrical Engineering are specifically tapped for these programs.

Dr. Agrupis said MMSU students will formulate the plans, with the supervision and approval of their professors, as required by the local government unit for the issuance of a building permit. "This is one way to help the people of the City of Batac so they will no longer pay professional fees for specialists," she stressed.

The university president added that this will serve as the students' "applied laboratory" in their respective fields, thus preparing them for their eventual graduation.

The officials of the City Government of Batac, the university Vice President for Administration and Finance, Engr. Ami Ruth Cocson, the dean of the College of Engineering, Dr. Nathaniel Alibuyog, and other faculty members witnessed the MOA signing. *(by D.P. Tapaoan, Jr.)* 

# British Ambassador visits MMSU



**B**ritish Ambassador to the Philippines Daniel Pruce visited the university last February 6 to strengthen ties with the academic community.

Pruce discussed the British government's program on transnational education with the university officials and students during a meeting among the Administrative Council (AdCo) officials at the River Mount Hotel and Resort, Sarrat, Ilocos Norte.

He said the British Embassy in Manila is co-organizing the Study World UK 2020 to provide bigger opportunities for Filipinos to study in the United Kingdom and to improve faculty exchange through scholarship grants, to explore on joint research projects and to broaden curricula with Philippine universities, and to develop better access to new resource materials.

The British Embassy official said he takes pride of his government's contribution to global education.

In addition, Pruce highlighted that MMSU is collaborating with the British Geological Survey and the Ateneo de Manila University to study the effects of climate change on groundwater resources - the availability of water and the possible consequences of flood and drought.

The British envoy also visited the Bislak River in Vintar, Ilocos Norte for its flood control system project.

Led by the University of Glasgow and the University of the Philippines, the Bislak River covering the municipalities of Vintar and Bacarra in Ilocos Norte is being studied to better understand possible flood scenarios and to enable the town to be better prepared for any water-related risks.

Since Pruce assumed as British representative to Manila in August 2017, this was the first time that he visited Ilocos Norte. He promised to come back to further strengthen friendly relations and stronger collaboration on areas both beneficial to the UK and the Philippines. 🇬🇧

## Cabinet spouses to provide scholarships to deserving students

BY DANIEL P. TAPAOAN JR.

**T**he Duterte Cabinet Spouses Association, Inc. (DU30CSA) will provide a scholarship grant to deserving undergraduate students of the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) who are pursuing agricultural or science and technology programs.

DU30CSA President Betty D. Medialdea and MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) for this purpose in 2019.

In the agreement, the DU30CSA will provide a total of PhP 100,000 financial assistance to every deserving student of the university for one academic year. MMSU will submit to the association up to three qualified nominees for the scholarship after a pre-screening process to be undertaken by its faculty members.

The scholarship is open for third year MMSU students whose parents' annual gross income does not exceed PhP 250,000. The students must also not have any scholastic delinquency; must be enrolled in at least 15 units at the time of the award of the grant; and, must not have been held liable in any disciplinary action.

Also, the applicant will be interviewed by the DU30CSA, attend to an orientation program, write a short essay on how the scholarship will help him or her, and will make a monthly budget receipt of the scholarship grant.

The scholarship covers the grantees' expenses on housing (PhP 30,000), food (PhP 40,000), transportation (PhP 20,000), and for books and school supplies (PhP 10,000).

The grant will be for two years, as long as on the second year of implementation, the selected scholars continue to meet the academic and financial qualifications. 🇵🇭

# AdCo reviews 2019 outputs, sets plans for 2020

BY DANIEL P. TAPAOAN JR.

**M**embers of the MMSU Administrative Council convened for the 2019 Performance Review and 2020 Planning Workshop held at the Rivermount Hotel and Resort in Sarrat, Ilocos Norte.

The activity, which ran from February 6-7, aimed to assess the performance of all the colleges and units in attaining their respective goals indicated in the 2019 University Strategic Plan, and to formulate plans and to set targets for this year.

In her speech, MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis thanked the administrators for the collective accomplishments of the university for more than two years. She also talked about the MMSU's aspiration to become a University 4.0 (in line with Education 4.0, and in response to Industry 4.0, the latest industrial revolution).

"It may look like another ambitious goal, but I know that our team is all



about ambitions and accomplishments," she said.

While the university had accomplished a lot and continues to strive for more, Dr. Agrupis encouraged the university administrators to sustain the conduct of performance review and planning workshop as a part of MMSU's quality and excellence-driven culture.

During the activity, the vice-presidents, deans and directors

presented the accomplishments of their offices with respect to the seven-point agenda, ACHIEVE.

Then, the AdCo members reviewed the 2018-2023 MMSU Strategic Plan and crafted the Operational Plan for 2020. The institutional calendar was also presented to the administrators.

The AdCo members, led by the university president, ended the activity by re-igniting their commitment to MMSU 4.0 through an oath. 🇵🇭

## 4 SUCs benchmark with MMSU

**F**our state universities and colleges (SUCs) conducted benchmarking activities here in the university this February.

The Central Bicol State University of Agriculture (CBSUA), Benguet State University (BSU), Tarlac State University (TSU), and Isabela State University (ISU) visited the university to look into MMSU's best practices and on how it gained its stars from the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Stars Rating System.

On February 4, the department chairs and program coordinators of the

MMSU College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) presented their best practices in offering the college's degree programs to the visitors from CBSUA.

MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis also presented the university's accomplishments and programs to the guests, hoping that MMSU and CBSUA can explore possible areas for collaboration in the future. The faculty members of the visiting institution became interested in applying MMSU's English programs (under the Language Center and the Department of Languages and Literature) in their school.

Meanwhile, last February 21, the MMSU QS team presented the university's strategic plans, accomplishments, and journey in gaining its three QS stars to the visitors from BSU, TSU, and ISU.

In January, MMSU became the first state university in the country to be awarded with three stars by the QS Stars Rating System. Using the QS international metrics, it was evaluated on the following areas: teaching, employability, academic development, internationalization, facilities, innovation, social responsibility, and program strength. 🇵🇭

# Agrupis releases new Team ACHIEVE designees



The appointees take their oath of office before MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis after the flag raising ceremony on February 3 in front of the FEM Hall. Their designations are valid until July 31, 2021, unless sooner revoke.

**M**MSU President Shirley C. Agrupis has appointed various university personnel to administrative designations by virtue of Special Order No. 20-010.

Designated anew as vice presidents are Dr. Prima Fe R. Franco for academic affairs, Engr. Ami Ruth R. Cocson for administration and finance, and Dr. Epifania O. Agustin for research, extension, and business. Dr. Carmelo J. Esteban, who previously served as director for planning, was assigned to serve as vice president for planning and development.

Reappointed deans of their respective colleges are Dr. Virgilio Julius P. Manzano of the Graduate School (GS), Dr. Ricardo S. Guanzon of the College of Medicine (COM), Dr. Joselito I. Rosario of the College of Agriculture, Food and Sustainable Development (CAFSD), Dr. Marivic M. Alimbuyugen of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), Dr. Angelina Abrojena of the College of Business, Economics and Accountancy (CBEA), Dr. Nathaniel R. Alibuyog of the College of Engineering (COE), Dr. Manolita S. Crisostomo

of the College of Health Sciences (CHS), Dr. Cesario Y. Pacis of the College of Industrial Technology (CIT), and Dr. Eliza T. Samson of the College of Teacher Education (CTE). Atty. Brian Jay Corpuz and Prof. Veronica O. Grande are officers-in-charge of the College of Law (COL) and the College of Aquatic Sciences and Applied Technology (CASAT), respectively.

Prof. Luvee Hazel C. Aquino was appointed as the secretary of the university and the Board of Regents, while Atty. Ma. Saniata R. Marcos is the officer-in-charge of the Legal Office.

The newly designated directors of the different offices are Mr. Reynaldo E. Andres (Office for Strategic Communication), Prof. Henedine A. Aguinaldo (University Registrar), Dr. Elizabeth Marfel F. Gagni (Student Affairs and Services), Ms. Eliza G. Villarin (University Library System), Prof. Andres Y. Tungpalan (Administrative Services), Mr. Erick Jay A. Dela Cruz (Procurement), Engr. Ariel B. de los Santos (General Services), Prof. Reynold Villacillo (Planning), and, Engr. Romeo R. Duldulao (Physical Planning and Development).

Reappointed as directors of various units are Prof. Arsenio T. Gallego (Center for Human Movement Studies), Dr. Oscar M. Agpaoa (Financial Management Services), Ms. Marcela V. Aison (Human Resources Management), Dr. Leonisa A. Silvestre (Health and Wellness Services), Mr. Jan Francis O. Javier (Security Services), Dr. Marilou P. Lucas (Research), Dr. Aris Reynold V. Cajigal (Extension), Ms. Lenie G. Bayangos (Business), Dr. Marlowe U. Aquino (Science and Technology Park), Prof. Wilben Christie R. Pagtaconan (Information Technology Center), Dr. Mee Jay A. Domingo (External Linkages and Partnerships) and Dr. Frederick F. Rodrigo (Quality Assurance).

For the chiefs of offices, new names are: Mr. John Vincent B. Toribio (Information Services), Mr. Ryan Roi B. Domingo (Digital Media Services), Dr. Annjeannette Alain D. Galang (Admission), Dr. Jan Rich A. Guira (Student Development), Mr. Rowell C. Tagatac (Cultural Development), Prof. Aleli R. Martin (Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program Office), Engr. Vladimir P. Ibañez, (National Service Training Program Office), Dr. Byron Joseph A. Hallar (Distance Learning), Ms. Rebecca P. Rancangan (Records and Archives Management System), Mr. Gerard S. Ragudo (In-Service Trainings), Ms. Shareid Shundy B. Aguilar (University Psychology Testing Center), Engr. Jonas Paul B. Dela Cruz (Disaster Risk Reduction), Mr. Erick Jay A. Dela Cruz (Procurement Planning), Ms. Norjemar I. Galing (Contract Management), Mr. Rogelio Tagatac (Carpentry), Mr. Romeo L. Borromeo (Plumbing), Mr. Louie T. Ruguian (Motorpool and Mechanical Services), Mr. Franklin S. Clarion (Ground Maintenance), Mr. Giovannie Stanley S. Malab (Landscaping), Mr. Joel I. Adajar (Visual Arts), Dr. Arnold M. Caoili, (Regional Research and Training Center for Climate Change Studies),

*(See Team ACHIEVE...page 12)*

## CBEA celebrates 33<sup>rd</sup> founding anniversary

To foster unity among its faculty, students and administrators, the College of Business, Economics and Accountancy (CBEA) conducted series of activities in celebration of its 33<sup>rd</sup> founding anniversary.

With the theme, “Semper Ad Meliora: Always Towards Better Things,” the events happened last February 10 were participated by around 1,300 students, 60 alumni and 30 faculty and staff. The celebration was spearheaded by the CBEA Faculty Club, Alumni Association, and the Student Council.

The celebration started with a thanksgiving service and an opening program at the University Covered Court. Highlighting the event was the inauguration of the college’s new building led by the college dean, Dr. Angelina Abrojena. The structure, with six classrooms, addresses the need to



accommodate the burgeoning population of the college.

Moreover, the students joined in a team-building activity to tighten their bonds. Their respective organizations also put up booths in the college.

A *Lunch-for-a-Cause* activity was also held to purchase LED wall to be placed at the lobby and an amplifier speaker to be set up at the college’s social hall.

The celebration culminated with simultaneous departmental fora with the various stakeholders of the college - the representatives from industries, government agencies, non-government organizations, alumni, students and parents. They discussed about the revised proposed curriculum of the different degree programs of the college and their respective College Research, Extension and Development Agenda (CREDA). (by *D.P. Tapaoan, Jr.*)

## CIT alumnus donates automotive tools



An alumnus of the BS in Industrial Technology – Automotive Technology program donated automotive tools to the College of Industrial Technology, particularly to the department of Bachelor in Automotive Technology.

Mr. Eric Gagarin, a member of the 2010 class, donated the automotive tools for the students to use in their laboratory classes

These tools include: Diagnostic Scan tool FixAssist OBD2+ ABS; a 17-pc Screwdriver set; an inspection mirror/pick-up tool; multimeter; battery brush; 8-function multimeter; 99-pc electrical home repair kit; 25-pc stripper/crimper and terminals set; torque wrench 20-100 LBS; 12-IN, 17-IN, & 25-IN curved pry bars; 3-pc adjustable wrench set; 3-piece locking pliers set; 10-pc ratcheting combination wrench set; and, a 28-pc combination wrench set.

During his visit to MMSU last February 12, Mr. Gagarin recalled his days in the college. “As I look back on my college days, I remember my professors who influenced me in my professional and personal life. When I think about all the things that my alma mater did for me, I want to give back as a gesture of gratitude,” Gagarin said.

Dr. Cesario Y. Pacis, the college dean, said that the college is grateful for the alumni who visit and donate tools and instruments which are beneficial for the learning process of the students. “Our graduates never forget CIT which they claim to have transformed their lives to becoming successful and financially stable. They are very fascinated of how the university has metamorphosed, and this motivates them more to keep coming back,” he stressed. (by *Athen Lee D. Delos Santos, CIT Correspondent*)

# CTE, DepEd Ilocos Norte hold workshop on needs-based research

BY NIÑA CHRISTELLE SUMINTAC  
CTE Correspondent



**T**he MMSU College of Teacher Education, in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd) – Ilocos Norte, held a month-long seminar-workshop on Strengthening the Needs-Based Researches for teachers held at Filipinas East Elementary School, San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte.

The joint extension activity aimed to propagate a culture of research in the basic education sector. One hundred

twenty teachers from the 21 districts of Ilocos Norte participated in the seminar-workshop.

The DepEd Ilocos Norte tapped the CTE faculty members to serve as trainers in the activity.

Topics discussed during the seminar-workshop were: *How to Identify Problems for Action Research* and *How to Write Rationale/Context of the Action Research* by Prof. Aleli R. Martin; *Identifying Research Questions and How to Identify Solutions/*

*Innovations/Strategies/Inventions to the Identified Problems* by Prof. John Paul C. Vallente; *Methods of Research* by Dr. Rosabel L. Acosta and Dr. Jahnese D. Asuncion; and *Action Research Timeline/Gantt Chart, Result and Discussion and Conclusion and Recommendation* by Prof. Gerry D. Abad and Dr. Bert A. Gamiao.

The trainers were joined by Mr. Ryan A. Dulig and Mr. Jay Lagutero, 2018 Basic Education Research Fund (BERF) Grantees from DepEd-IN who discussed the importance of Action Research and its difference from the basic research.

The seminar-workshop is the first extension project of the MMSU-CTE this year.

This is an effort of the College that directly responds to one of the 7-point agenda of University President Shirley C. Agrupis, which is *High Impact and Transformative Extension and Outreach Program*.

The month-long extension activity culminated last February 20, 2020 at the DepEd Ilocos Norte office. 📺

## *(Team ACHIEVE...from page 10)*

Prof. Anabelle B. Alejo (*Tuklas Lunas* Development Center), Prof. Estrelita O. Domingo (Natural Resources Conservation and Management Center), Engr. Samuel S. Franco (Center for Innovative Materials in Emerging Applications), Mr. Nestor T. Alonzo (Training Facilities), Ms. Vinamay Grace R. Cabugon (Accommodation), Dr. Susan G. Aquino (Agribusiness), Ms. Kristel Ivy J. Badar (Marketing Center), Mr. Rogelio A. Abiva, Jr. (SIP Hub), Prof. Rhoda T. Garcia (Food Products Innovation Center), Prof. Mishael Joy S. Barrera (Technology Business Incubation), Dr. Mark R.

Limon (Product Safety and Standards), Engr. Artbellson G. Mamuri (University Innovation Technology Services), Dr. Bobby A. Eclarin (Data Science Unit), Mr. Prospero T. Valdez, Jr. (Technical Services and Maintenance), Prof. Ryan Dean T. Sugang (Alumni Relations), Dr. Marlowe U. Aquino (International Programs), Prof. Jeanette G. Dials (International Faculty and Student Mobility), Engr. Philip D. Padre (Project Management Section), Dr. Margarita G. Hilario (Program and Institutional Accreditation), Dr. Michelle D. Reynera (International Accreditation), Mr. Leonardo D. Tejano (Center for Iloko and Amianan Studies), Dr. Jovenita A. Aragon (CHED Center for Teaching

Excellence) and Ms. Rhea R. Espiritu (Center for Diver Training and Education).

Designated anew as chiefs of offices are: Mr. Procopio B. Dafun, Jr. (Documentation Services), Dr. Geraldine B. Pascual (Student Welfare), Prof. Milagros B. Barruga (Institutional Student Programs and Services), Mr. Clarence S. Ordonia (Sports Development), Dr. Ronald Candy S. Lasaten (Instructional Materials Development), Prof. Jay Pee B. Ilacas (OJT / SIPP / Practicum), Ms. Phebe M. Pasion (Supply and Property Management), Mr. Alexander C. Martinez (Document

*(See Team ACHIEVE...page 13)*

# MMSU is member of distance education consortium TWG

**T**he Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) is one of the six state universities composing a technical working group (TWG) that will work on the creation of the Consortium of Open and Distance Education Institutions in the Philippines.

Other schools included in the TWG are the University of the Philippines - Open University (UPOU), Benguet State University (BSU), Central Luzon State University (CLSU), Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (DMMMSU), and the Ifugao State University (IFSU).

UPOU chancellor Dr. Melinda DP. Bandalaria and university presidents Dr. Shirley C. Agrupis (MMSU), Dr. Feliciano G. Calora, Jr. (BSU), Dr. Edgar A. Orden (CLSU), Dr. Jaime I. Manuel, Jr. (DMMMSU), and Dr. Eva Marie Codamon-Dugyon (IFSU) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for this purpose at the UPOU Headquarters in Los Baños, Laguna last February 20.

As stipulated in the MOU, the TWG will identify areas of academic



*The Technical Working Group (TWG) of the Consortium of Open and Distance Education Institutions in the Philippines.*

collaboration, particularly on distance education, among the Consortium members. The MOU specifically leads to the development and offering of programs, cross-enrolment, sharing of educational resources and publication, and research.

Also, the TWG will collaborate for the capacity-building on faculty and student exchange, and for international collaboration and accreditation.

Pursuant to the MOU, all research outputs, discoveries and innovations produced by the TWG shall be jointly owned by the member-universities.

In support of the MOU's intent, the member-universities shall support the activities of the TWG by allocating appropriate resources needed for the abovementioned purposes.

Other specific areas of cooperation will be elaborated later in subsequent formal agreements to specify the detailed terms and conditions of such collaborations.

The cooperation between the six state universities shall be based on the principles of mutual benefit and respect for each other's independence. *(by D.P. Tapaoan, Jr.)* 

## *(Team ACHIEVE...from page 12)*

Tracking System), Ms. Imelda C. Corpuz (Accounting Office), Ms. Remedelina G. Villena (Budget), Ms. Amelita U. Pungtilan (Cashier), Dr. Saturnina F. Nisperos (University Personnel Development Program), Mr. Jimmy A. Banayat (Security), Ms. Agnes L. Gabriel (Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat), Dr. Floramante C. Pastor (Pollution Control Unit), Michael Freddie S. Balanay (Electrical Services), Engr. Wilson R. Duldulao (Electronics), Engr. Thomas D. Ubiña (National Bioenergy Research and Innovation Center), Dr. Dionisio S. Bucaco (Garlic Research Center), Ms. Bella C. Gervacio (Training and Continuing Education), Dr. Sosima

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Moreover, Dr. Jocelyn A. Bernabe and Engr. Ruben J. Dabalos were

appointed anew as coordinators of Dingras and Paoay campuses, respectively. For the laboratory schools, Dr. Bert A. Gamiao of Laoag campus and Dr. Resurreccion M. Mateo of Batac campus were designated as new principals.

The appointees took their oath of office before the university president after the flag raising ceremony in front of the FEM Hall on February 3. These designations are valid until July 31, 2021, unless sooner revoke.

For contact details of the university administrators, visit <https://www.mmsu.edu.ph/about/directory>. -- *(D.P. Tapaoan, Jr.)* 

## Grad School, Language Center hold lecture on Ilokano language

BY MA. DELEILAH F. ADRIATICO



**I**n celebration of the International Mother Language Day 2020, a lecture on Intellectualizing the Ilokano Language User and Speaker for Research and Scholarship for the Community was conducted last February 22 at the CTEX Hall, MMSU Laoag Campus.

Famous Ilokano studies scholar, Dr. Aurelio S. Agcaoil, associate professor and coordinator of the Ilokano Language and Literature Program of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, delivered a lecture on the

intellectualization of the Ilokano Language.

In the activity, University President Shirley C. Agrupis emphasized the need to strengthen Ilokano studies in the university focusing on Ilokano language and culture.

The activity was participated in by graduate and undergraduate students in the university, particularly those who are taking PhD in Linguistics, MA Education (majors in Ilokano Studies, Language and Literature, and *Wika at Panitikan*), MA in English Language and Literature and AB English Language. 📺

## MMSU sets good record in PT, ME exams

**O**nce again, the University exhibited good performance in the Physical Therapy and Mechanical Engineer licensure examinations administered by the Professional Regulation Commission held last February 2-3 and 23-24, respectively.

Ten out of 16 graduates from the College of Health Sciences (CHS) passed the PT test, yielding an

institutional passing rate of 62.50% as against the 61% national success rate.

Meanwhile, 15 out of 29 graduates from the College of Engineering hurred the examination for MEs, producing 51.72% institutional passing rate, higher than the national average which stood at only 38.45%.

These passers were among the 729 new PTs and 1,334 new MEs in the country. 📺

## CTE honors alumni

BY NIÑA CHRISTELLE SUMINTAC

**T**he College of Teacher Education recognized its *Balay ti Alumni* donors during its Alumni and Awards Night held last February 14.

The college gave special citations to the building's wall donors, room sponsors, alumni kings and queens in grateful appreciation of the alumni's overwhelming efforts to help build CTE's *Balay ti Alumni*.

An awards committee was created to recognize the generous donors. Through the committee head, Dr. Alegria T. Visaya (NLTC Class of 1972), the individual and group donors were given platinum, gold, silver, and bronze awards.

The committee also recognized the class with the biggest donation which is the NLTC Class of 1968. Meanwhile, the NLTC Class of 1973 was also recognized as the Royal Class as it has produced a king and a number of queens in a row from 2015 to 2019.

Dr. Rosabel L. Acosta, outgoing alumni affairs coordinator, said that the accumulated donations totaled to PhP 3.8 million and USD 3,000.

MMSU Federated Alumni Association Inc. President Bismark A. Quidang, the event's guest of honor, said, "I am confident that the Alumni Relations Office will link all alumni who are now global citizens to be a blessing to President Shirley C. Agrupis' *ACHIEVE*".

In the event, Ms. Aurelia Bacud-Opeña (NLTC Class of 1970) was also hailed as the CTE Alumni Queen 2020.

The Alumni Night is an annual event of the College, gathering graduates even from its predecessor school. 📺

## LES Laoag is overall champ in regional contest

**T**he MMSU Laboratory Elementary School (LES) in Laoag City campus emerged overall champion in the region-wide academic and literary arts contests held last February 5-6.

The Philippine Science High School – Ilocos Region Campus in San Ildefonso, Ilocos Sur conducted the competitions in line with its celebration of the 18<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Week.

Four groups from the LES won in the Investigatory Project Wizard contest: Thrizie Reyes, James Daron Apay, and Julienne Lucas, first place; Amon Ra Rahon, Rylie Felicity Mina Algonahota, and Razheed Batangan, second; Aliah Concepcion, Jian Mikaela Juan, and Chjalsmyr Saturnino, third; and,

Florianne Felix, Katricemaye Ansagay, and Charmaine Cachila, fourth. They were all coached by Ms. Romelyn Lagura,

For the essay writing contest, Kimberly Ardelle Aurelio Umlas landed first place in the English category, while Shaundei Wayne Valdez landed second in the Filipino category. Coaches were Mr. Mark Ian Tagami and Ms. Janeth Luis, respectively.

Also, the group of Jacob Flor, Mark Antin Planta, and Elijah Alimpia emerged as the first placer in the Math Trail contest. Meanwhile, Starry Christi Sampayan landed third in the vocal solo contest. Ms. Rica Jane Natividad was their coach.

Naiha Amano Ancheta won second place in the Science and Technology Writing (Filipino), with Mr. Leonardo Tejano as the coach. 📺



## CHED issues guidelines to prevent spread of COVID-19

**T**he Commission on Higher Education (CHED) has directed all higher education institutions (HEIs) to observe the guidelines of health authorities in preventing the spread of COVID-19, a disease caused by the coronavirus.

The guidelines released last February 11 recommend HEIs to discuss about the suspension of school events, such as sports activities, which involve the congregation of students. CHED stated that schools and groups must review with their respective Department of Health (DOH) regional offices whether to push through or postpone any planned events. This is in line with the recent recommendation of the DOH to “avoid attending, participating in, and organizing events that draw a huge number of attendees.”

Citing orders from the DOH and the World Health Organization (WHO), the commission also urged faculty members, staff, and students to avoid believing and spreading fake news about the disease. “HEIs are encouraged to only rely on and disseminate relevant information obtained from DOH and WHO via their official websites,” it stated.

In addition, CHED also recommended the creation of a central in-house resource of COVID-19-related information available for students and institute personnel. The agency also encouraged institutions to establish screening protocols based on the WHO guidelines for screening and response.

While there is still no vaccine to prevent COVID-19, CHED asked students and personnel to strictly follow the recommended preventive actions to prevent its spread, such as avoiding close contact with people who are sick, staying home when sick, covering mouth and nose when sneezing, cleaning and disinfecting frequently used objects, and sanitizing hands regularly. 📺



**WE CONTINUE TO BUILD MMSU,  
NOT ONLY AS A HOME  
OF EXCELLENCE,  
BUT ALSO AS A HOME  
FULL OF JOY, COMPASSION  
AND GENUINE LOVE.**

**THIS IS MMSU WITH A HEART.**

**DR. SHIRLEY C. AGRUPIS  
UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT**



## **VISION**

**A premier Philippine university  
by 2028**

## **MISSION**

**To develop virtuous human capital  
and sustainable innovations  
in a knowledge-driven global economy**

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