

MMSU Chronicle



GATEWAY TO INFORMATION AND TRANSPARENCY

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Let's ACHIEVE!

By SHIRLEY C. AGRUPIS



“Unleash the reservoir of the potentials God has given you.”

Just last week, we accomplished many things. The ITC concluded the training on the use of ICT tools for teachers, and we are looking forward for the Phase 3, as we empower and capacitate our faculty to transform their teaching pedagogy because we are under the new normal. Let not this unseen enemy disturb where we should go. It is really our role to accomplish what is mandated us – to produce quality graduates.

The following day, there was a Phil-Connect with Canada and UK. It was the launching of the Commission on Higher Education's Phil-Connect where all higher education institutions upload their open source materials in their system, and only 16 state colleges and universities (SUCs) were picked up – one of them is MMSU.

The planning workshop was also finished last week. All heads of offices, especially the deans expressed their gratitude, because that was their first time to sit down with the concerned offices to plan and help them to redirect their roadmap in the coming years.

Last week, we had the meeting with the deans, and we laid down our plans, we set targets and deadlines, and we hope that we will be able to accomplish all the plans that we have laid down.

And, the new significant one is the international webinar of one of our faculty, Jessica Asuncion. Significant because she had a very beautiful story why she was directed to the United States.

Jessica is a CHED scholar. She unfortunately failed in an examination,

so she was kicked out of Ateneo De Manila University. She was hopeless, and CHED charged her to pay her scholarship expenses. She came to my office feeling hopeless, and I told her that “this is not the end of everything. Build up, feel it as your borders to rise. ADMU does not define your future.”

I recommended her to National Institute of Standard and Technology (NIST) in Maryland, USA. She failed in the eyes of this giant university in the Philippines but she won the hearts of the bigger giants – the NIST, which is a federal government institution.

You see, we have a big reservoir of potentials, and we are the perfect masterpiece of God's creation. We were born equal. The missing link is that we fail to unleash the reservoir that God has given us, and Jessica Asuncion is a perfect example.

The missing link is that we look at our left and right. Then, we look up, and ask God to guide us where we should go. And that is the message I am telling everyone – that we are a perfect masterpiece of God. We have unlimited potentials. God has given us the free will to choose which direction we should go. We are in the wrong direction if we do not anchor our faith to God.

Let us acknowledge and activate the innate heroism in us. As we have recited in our *Panunumpa ng Lingkod Bayan*, we should always uphold honesty and integrity in all our offices by developing good habits and correcting not-so-good practices.

—o0o—

As I hear the lyrics of our MMSU Hymn during our flag raising ceremony, I remember former MMSU President

Elias Calacal, who every time he interviewed personnel, asked them to sing the MMSU Hymn. Let's make it as a requirement for every personnel to recite the MMSU Hymn. It is the responsibility of the chiefs of offices to call on the attention of their personnel to recite the MMSU Hymn.

You know, just like knowing Christ, if you do not read your Bible, if you go only to church or attend funeral or wedding ceremonies, you are far from knowing God, and it reflects the way we live. If we put every single word of the MMSU Hymn (in our hearts), it keeps reminding us that we have an institution that supports our daily lives. And, we have the responsibility to work for MMSU.

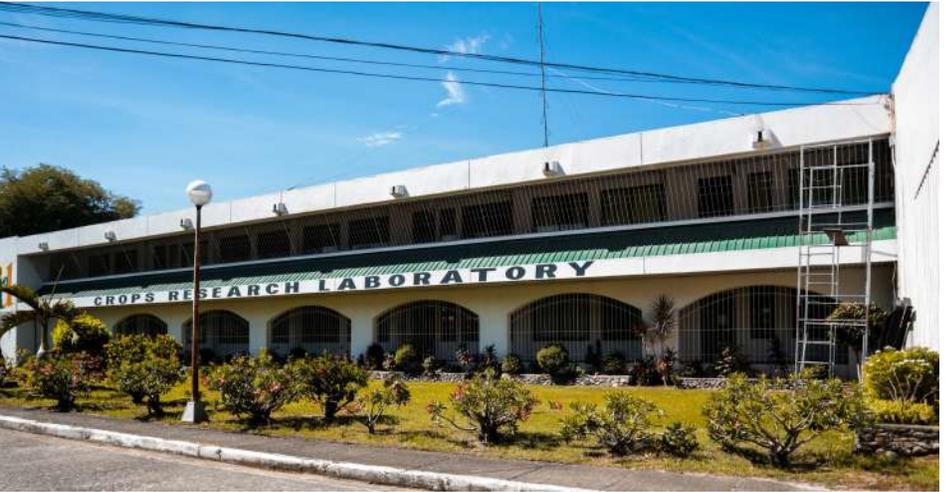
So, I want to declare today that every single personnel in MMSU should know by heart every single word of the lyrics and it should be a part of the evaluation forms.

—o0o—

After the lockdown, I hope we have enough time to look back and strengthen our commitment and dedication to work more. We really need to recalibrate as we meet the challenges under the new normal. We really need to recalibrate our values and attitudes, and all the more, we need to think outside the box to be innovative and to find out what we can do more for the university.

There are mixed reactions on the decisions that we made in the university. If we made that kind of decision, please note that we are not putting anyone in danger. You are always in the heart of the university's decision-making body in order for you to stay safe. We just want to give you the best security the university can give, and existing policies can provide. 🇵🇭

DOST oks P35.5-M for garlic, food condiments research hub



By REYNALDO E. ANDRES

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) has approved a PHP35.5-million fund for the establishment of the National Garlic and Other Agri-Food Condiments Research and Development (R&D) Center this year.

The research center, which will be set-up at the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU), is expected to help increase the competitiveness of garlic and the other condiments, such as the multiplier onion, ginger, chili pepper, black pepper, and turmeric in the market.

It also aims to develop a successful chain for these products, including their processing and storage facilities.

Dr. Dionisio S. Bucao, chief of MMSU's Garlic Research Center (GRC), said the establishment of the new national R&D center hopes to increase the garlic yield of farmers in the province from 3.8 tons per hectare to 5 tons, reduce bulb weight loss from 50 percent to 15 percent, and increase the net income of farmers by 30 percent.

"This time, we do not only focus the R&D initiatives on garlic, but also on other agricultural products which are being used as spices or food condiments," Bucao said Monday.

Based on the proposal submitted to DOST, the project's fund allocation shall be sourced out from the agency's grants-

in-aid (GIA) program; and all proposed science and technology (S&T) interventions will be operationalized through the complementation of the five projects that will be implemented from 2018 to 2023.

These include the collection, characterization, conservation and improvement of garlic and pepper genetic resources in the country; improvement on the productivity of garlic and other condiment crops through the development of integrated crop management system; enhancement on the curing and garlic storage practices in the country through the development of village level low-cost storage facilities; enhancement on the usability and profitability of garlic through black garlic processing; and the identification of the key strategies in improving the competitiveness of the local garlic.

Aside from the PHP35.5-million fund from the DOST GIA program, PHP3.8 million will be provided by MMSU as its counterpart fund.

"Through this R&D center, we hope to actively generate and enhance the technical competency of local government units (LGUs) and other research institutions and create a vibrant market opportunity through

product development and other initiatives," Bucao said.

He also expects the research hub will strengthen partnership with other agencies in garlic-growing provinces in the country, such as Occidental and Oriental Mindoro, Nueva Ecija, Batanes, Nueva Vizcaya, Quezon, Iloilo, Romblon, Abra, and Benguet.

Meanwhile, the country is producing garlic in small volume estimated at 7,751 metric tons (mt) a year despite its national annual consumption requirement posted at 139,777 mt.

Records from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed that Ilocos Norte is annually contributing 61 percent in the national total production of garlic, followed by Occidental Mindoro (19 percent), and Ilocos Sur (4 percent).

In 2017, the country ranked 46th among the 101 garlic-growing nations in the world in terms of volume production, based on the record from the Food and Agriculture Organizations Statistical Databases (FAOSTAT).

Bucao attributed the production decline to the degrading fertility condition of agriculture soils in the Ilocos region and the decreasing production area, as farmers shift to other high-value commercial crops, such as corn and tobacco. 

CHED oks P9.7-M to expand MMSU Saranay Against COVID-19 program



Office of the Governor Matthew M. Manotoc,” Agrupis said, noting that rationing of alcohol to other agencies in the province will be done on scheduled basis, while rationing to other provinces will be done on pre-request basis.

Meanwhile, the University Garments Project will also increase its production capacity of face masks and laboratory gowns by hiring sewers trained by the MMSU College of Industrial Technology (CIT) and buying additional sewing machines.

The project is expected to produce 55,000 pieces of face mask for distribution to MMSU students, faculty and staff; barangay task forces and banks in the cities of Batac and Laoag; and health workers in public and private hospitals. It will also produce 150 pieces of laboratory gowns for the front-liners.

“After accomplishing all these targets, the university will continue to upgrade its garment facilities for the production of PPEs, including its laboratory facilities to produce technical and analytical grade ethyl alcohol for research, laboratory, pharmaceutical, and other advanced application of ethyl alcohol.

Further, the MMSU will also seek certification from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and Department of Energy (DOE) so that the university will serve as the agencies’ extended testing laboratory in northern Philippines.

To date, the MMSU has already produced more than 4,500 liters of 70 percent ethyl alcohol, 2,000 face masks, and 25 laboratory gowns.

Launched in March 2020, the Saranay Against COVID-19 program is MMSU’s multi-faceted program in response to the emerging needs of communities in fighting the pandemic crisis. Other initiatives under this program are food rationing, donation drives, free accommodation, and relief operations. 

By DANIEL P. TAPAOAN, JR.

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) has approved the Php 9.7 million fund for the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) to expand its Saranay Against COVID-19 program to help fight the coronavirus pandemic.

Of this amount, Php 7.5 million will be used to expand the production of 70 percent ethyl alcohol, and another Php 2.2 million for the production of personal protective equipment (PPE).

MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis thanked the CHED for approving the proposal, saying that such effort will surely help the university fulfill its mandate of producing and supplying alcohol and PPE to various agencies and communities to help them contain the spread of the dreaded disease.

The MMSU Saranay Against COVID-19 program aims to reduce the shortage of 70 percent ethyl alcohol in north Luzon, and increase the availability of face masks and laboratory gowns for front-liners in Ilocos Norte.

“The project rests on two driving forces — the efficiency and productivity of MMSU projects and the healthy collaboration among stakeholders, particularly with the local government units,” Agrupis said.

In the production of ethyl alcohol, the National Bioenergy Research and Innovation Center (NBERIC) of MMSU will upgrade its existing bioethanol facilities in order to produce 6,000 liters of 70 percent Nipahol (alcohol from nipa sap), 4,800 liters of Ilokohol (alcohol from molasses), and 10,000 45-mL bottles of hand sanitizer in a span of three months.

These products will be distributed to various organizations, such as schools, hospitals, banks, churches, local government units (LGUs) and component cities in Ilocos Norte; other provinces in Regions 1, 2, and Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR); regional offices based in La Union; and COVID-19 center hospitals in northern Luzon.

“These will be distributed to the LGUs in Ilocos Norte through the

Strengthening the Online Teaching Capability of MMSU Faculty Members



THE PARADIGM OF ONLINE TEACHING AND LEARNING

JULY 3, 2020

Dr. Byron Joseph A. Hallar
Assistant Professor
Chief, Distance Learning



DESIGNING COURSES FOR ONLINE TEACHING AND LEARNING

JULY 6, 2020

Prof. Fe Erlinda D. Ibalio
Associate Professor
Curriculum Development Specialist

DEVELOPING LEARNING PACKAGES FOR ONLINE TEACHING AND LEARNING



DESIGNING LEARNING ACTIVITIES FOR ONLINE TEACHING AND LEARNING

JULY 8, 2020

Dr. Ronald Candy S. Lasaten
Associate Professor
Chief, Instructional Materials Development



SELECTING OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OERS)

JULY 10, 2020

Melchor S. Castro
Assistant Professor
Information Technology Specialist



PREPARING ASSESSMENT TOOLS

JULY 13, 2020

Prof. Gerry D. Abad
Assistant Professor
Education Specialist

Univ to hold webinar series for faculty

By JOHN VINCENT B. TORIBIO

To further strengthen the online teaching capability of MMSU faculty members, a webinar series will be conducted among the academic workforce of the University in July.

Experts in distance learning, curriculum development, instructional materials, information technology and education will serve as resource persons in the online sessions.

Speakers for the webinar series are Dr. Byron Joseph Hallar, chief of Distance Learning; Prof. Fe Erlinda D. Ibalio, curriculum development specialist;

Dr. Ronald Candy S. Lasaten, chief of Instructional Materials Development; Prof. Melchor S. Castro, information technology specialist; and Prof. Gerry Abad, education specialist.

They will discuss the following topics, respectively: The Paradigm of Online Teaching and Learning on July 3; Designing Courses for Online Teaching on July 6; Designing Learning Activities for Online Teaching and Learning on July 8; Selecting Open Educational Resources on July 10; and Preparing Assessment Tools on July 13.

All faculty members of the University are expected to participate in the said virtual activity.

MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis stressed that “this effort of the University reflects how we effectively and efficiently hurdle the obstacles of the New Normal academic environment.”

Prof. Wilben Christie R. Pagtaconan, project team leader, said that the event is to be accessed only by the instructors and professors of the University. 🌐

MMSU trains employees to become online trainers



viability and to altogether rise against the COVID-19 pandemic.”

“Let not this unseen enemy stop us to continue our mission of producing knowledgeable and skilled employees who serve our stakeholders better,” she added.

Dr. Agrupis said the creation of a flexible learning hub and online TUNNEL are among the university’s initiatives to make MMSU ready for Industry 4.0 (Industrial Revolution).”

She urged the sponsors of the activity to explore on how to organize other online TUNNEL trainings for extension, research, and production, “to further help other stakeholders in these thrusts.”

The Online TUNNEL was approved by the MMSU Administrative Council in its meeting on May 22 and it is being organized by the university’s ED and ITC offices in collaboration with the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) and the College of Industrial Technology (CIT).

Since the training was conducted face-to-face, Dr. Cajigal assured that limited number of participants per batch was enforced, and that health protocols such as physical distancing and wearing of face masks were strictly followed. 🇵🇭

By DANIEL P. TAPAOAN, JR.

The Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) launched on June 8 a series of trainings dubbed as Online TUNNEL (Trainings Under the ‘New Normal’ Environment for Learning) to help its faculty members and personnel adapt to the New Normal environment.

This activity aims to equip the teachers and staff the skills in conducting online trainings that hope to effectively address the diverse training needs of their various stakeholders as they face the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The activity was held from June 8 to 11 at the university’s Information Technology Center (ITC).

Conducted in four batches, the trainings taught the 120 faculty members and staff how to set up online trainings and registration procedures, and how to use equipment, among other training requirements.

According to Dr. Aris Reynold V. Cajigal, director of the Extension Directorate (ED), the participants were selected from various academic

departments and units who will serve as trainers in various future seminars.

“This is a significant move to continuously provide the necessary skills to our internal and external stakeholders of MMSU under the new normal,” Dr. Cajigal said.

For her part, MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis thanked the Extension Directorate and ITC for coming up with the training, hoping that the online TUNNEL “will be our compass in treading the road of



Exhibiting a high passing percentage in the 2019 Bar Examinations, the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) emerged anew as the number eight top performing law school in the Philippines.

Eleven out of 15 graduates of the MMSU College of Law passed the exams held last November 2019, yielding an institutional passing rate of 73.33 percent.

Ten law schools made it to the list of top performing schools, according to Law School Buddy, a Facebook page that focuses on delivering engaging and useful content to the law school student community.

The rankings were based on the 2019 Bar Statistics released by the Supreme Court – Office of the Bar Confidant.

The statistics also show that MMSU is number 1 in Criminal Law, one of the eight subjects covered in the bar exam.

Aside from MMSU, other top performing schools are University of Asia and Pacific in Manila, Ateneo De

MMSU is top 8 in bar exams



Davao University, University of the Philippines Diliman, Ateneo De Zamboanga University, Ateneo De Manila University, San Beda University Manila, University of Santo Tomas in Manila, University of San Carlos in Cebu City, and Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Manila.

MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis congratulated the bar passers,

attributing this feat to them and to the COL professors.

Last year, the Legal Education Board ranked MMSU as the number 10 best law school in the country based on the statistical data obtained in the 2018 bar examinations. The results were released by the Legal Education Board --by DP Tapaoan, Jr. 

US org donates books for MMSU, DepEd schools



The San Diego County Metropolitan Lions Club (SDC-MLC) in San Diego, California donated on June 8 a total of 364 books of various titles to the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) to be used by its students and those in the Department of Education (DepEd).

The books were received by the University Library System (ULS) through a shipment package sent by Leo and Norma Sicat, SDC-MLC President and Lion Tamer, respectively.

The package consisted of 15 titles in Geometry, Algebra 1 and 2, Milestones, Milestone Workbook, Milestone Teacher Education, Great

Expectations, George Washington, Tale of Two Cities, Eleanor Roosevelt, The Mutiny on Board HMS Bounty, The Three Musketeers, The Prince and the Pauper, Clara Barton, and the Man in the Iron Mask.

MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis said that while the university took custody of the hard-bound donations, it will also donate some of them to the Department of Education – Division Office in the City of Batac.

ULS Director Eliza Villarain said that some of the books will be distributed to the MMSU main library and its satellite libraries in Laoag City, to various high school campus libraries, and college reading centers.

Villarain said that organizations and agencies that donate books to the university are considered as ‘library friends’, because they help the university strengthen its collection of information resources for its students.

See US org on page 11

Rays of Sunshine in the Time of Pandemic **Laoag City's *Inspiring Heroes* from MMSU**



In celebration of its 55th Charter Day Anniversary last June 19, Laoag City hailed its 55 Inspiring Heroes: Rays of Sunshine in the Time of Pandemic. Of these awardees, 23 are MMSU officials, employees, alumni, and retirees.

The city government of Laoag recognized the individuals and groups who rendered “generosity of resources, selfless service, volunteering spirit, and remarkable compassion for others during the COVID-19 pandemic, thereby becoming a most worthy example and inspiration to Laoageños.”

MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis was awarded as an ‘Inspiring Hero’ for her groundbreaking crisis interventions that served as a model to all other Higher Education Institutions in the country, foremost of which are the production of 5,000 gallons of 70% ethyl alcohol duly certified by the Department of Science and Technology, and the readiness of MMSU to embrace virtual and hybrid modes of education.

Here are the other Laoag City’s inspiring heroes from MMSU:

Prof. Emile Kathleen M. Aguilar

A faculty member of the College of Agriculture, Food and Sustainable Development (CAFSD). She initiated a donation drive that provided tablets and cellphone load to her students so that they can continue to pursue their dreams in the new normal learning environment.

Prof. Jally Ann S. Guillermo

Also a faculty member of the College of Teacher Education (CTE), and the owner of Vis-a-Viz Lounge. Though her business temporarily closed, she continued to distribute over 6000 cups of lemonade to frontliners during the ECQ.

Dr. Leah C. Sambrano

Another faculty member of the College of Industrial Technology (CIT). Despite being diagnosed with Bell’s Palsy, she distributed relief goods to her barangay mates and spent her birthday doing charitable works.

Leonardo D. Tejano

A college instructor and the chief of MMSU Center for Ilokano and Amianan Studies. Realizing the importance of providing the public clear, accurate, and inclusive information in the time of crisis, he

volunteered to translate into Ilokano the education and information materials, announcements, and issuances of LGUs and various government agencies.

**Randy A Leñaño
Ianree B. Raquel**

Both are former faculty members of the university who lead two groups and a government office, respectively.

Leñaño spearheads the Ilocos Norte Council of Fashion Designers and Ilocos Norte Voices, the groups that both catered and paraded Ilocano talent and artistry. The INCFD sought to provide livelihood opportunities for designers who continue to lose significant income during these trying times while the INV shared much needed respite through musical performances.

Raquel, on the other hand, heads the Ilocos Norte Tourism Office (INTO) which took the lead to device and implement the Tourism and Heritage Livelihood Continuity Program, a pay-now-work-later arrangement for over 2,000 workers in the tourism sector, and the FB live show, ‘What’s IN’, featuring the products and creativity of the Ilocanos.

Dr. Alegria T. Visaya
Prof. Mario Singson
Dr. Virginia Duldulao

Dr. Visaya and Prof. Singson are former university secretary and professor, respectively, while Dr. Duldulao is an alumna of the North Luzon Teachers College, one of the MMSU's predecessor schools. They also volunteered to translate into Ilokano the education and information materials, announcements, and issuances of LGUs and various government agencies.

Ryan R. Remigio
(LHS-Laoag, 1984)

Known for "Remedyo ni Ryan", he led the private sector in various initiatives that aimed to combat the Covid-19 pandemic in the province, while demonstrating remarkable "remedyo" or remedy through his notable philanthropic efforts. He plays a vital role in monitoring the Provincial Border controls.

Jesthony G. Lagura
(BS Computer Engineering, 2009)

A devoted Christian and owner of a tutorial center, who paid full-month salaries to his employees although their work stopped during the pandemic. He also gave relief goods to indigents.

Wilma D. Eda
(B Secondary Education, 1993)

Another gem in delivering quality education, whose outstanding leadership launched the RACHEL (Remote Area Community Hotspot for Education and Learning) Technology and

"iamSAFEnow" (Investing and Mobilizing Support for Accessible and Future-ready Education) and other innovations which will prove especially useful as we inevitably embrace the New Normal.

Manuel Morales, Jr.
(BS DevCom, 2007)

A barangay kagawad, he spent his three-month honorarium in purchasing relief goods for his constituents. To help BJMP inmates support their families, he bought face masks from them and distributed these to his barangaymates.

Engr. Dennis Alejandro
(BS Mechanical Engineering, 1999)

A mechanical engineer by profession but a farmer by heart. He provided food assistance to hundreds of families, and cash and snacks to frontliners, not only in his barangay, but in various towns of Ilocos Norte as well.

Modesty Mae Eugenio
(LES-Laoag, 2010)

Produced 2,300 face masks and 76 PPEs through her #ThePPEPET Initiative (PPE Project for Emergency Troops). She also promoted small businesses through her blogs.

Dr. Maria Vitah Salazar
(LHS-Laoag, 1993)

A dentist by profession who used her love for arts and crafts to good use by innovating face shields and face masks for her fellow professionals in the medical field.

Atty. Rowell Jake Leonador
(Bachelor of Laws, 2013)

For his "Sagip Cagayano" initiative which extended help to the displaced Cagayano students and workers in Laoag City.

Daniel Levi P. Agullana
(B Technical Education, 2017)

Spearheaded the organization called "Free Masks Ilocos Norte" which raised funds in purchasing over 5,000 face masks.

Dr. Marierose L. Tolentino
(BS Biology, 1997)

Offered free online consultations and prescriptions, and free patient management services.

Genedine D. Jambrano
(BS Business Administration, 1989)

Distributed relief goods to all families in her barangay and to the city government. She also opened her home to strangers who were stranded.

Jerich Clyde F. Panlaque
(BA English Studies, 2013)

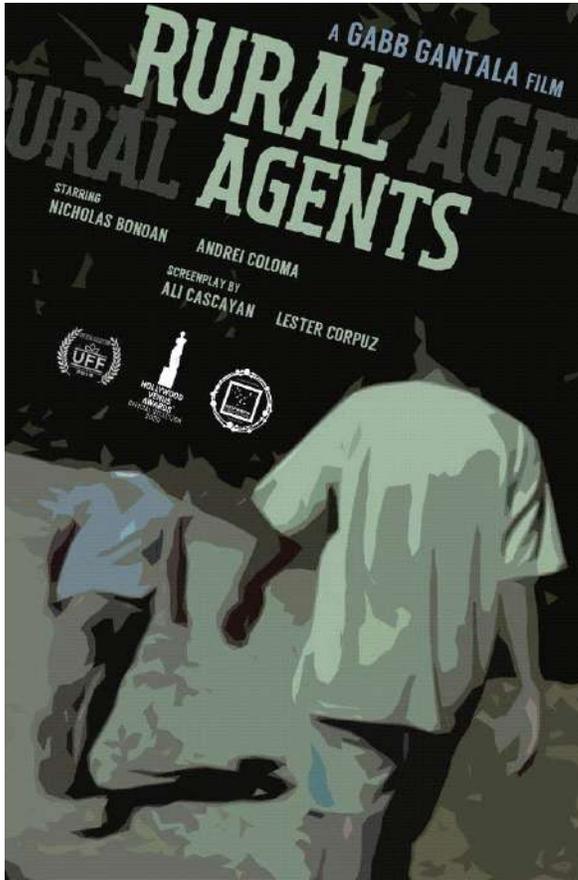
For conceptualizing the "ECQ Idol Ilocos Norte" which provided entertainment to Ilocanos and served as an avenue for our frontliner-singers to destress and showcase their talents.

Kevin Jay Ayson
(BS Computer Engineering, 2012)

A videographer who offered free pre-nuptial videos to frontliners of Ilocos Norte. Although he had no income from gigs during the pandemic, he distributed relief goods to some families in Barangay Barit and Payas. 



Ilokano short film joins Hollywood's top 100



By DANIEL P. TAPAOAN, JR.

A short film created by an alumnus of the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) was shortlisted in the prestigious Hollywood Venus Awards (HVA) for 2020.

The *Rural Agents*, a film about Ilokano life and culture, was produced by Mr. John Gabriel Cantala, a Bachelor of Secondary Education graduate of the College of Teacher Education (CTE).

This film is one of the top 100 films included in the HVA official selection, outshining more than 1,000 other films from all over the world.

HVA is a free, online short film festival organized by the International Cinema Community that provides international network for makers of short, feature, experimental, animation and documentary films.

Cantala expressed his delight upon learning that his film was selected as one

of the potential awardees, saying that the extraordinary opportunity is one way to show Ilokano ingenuity to the world.

The Ilokano short film, which was made in 2017, is a story about the dramatic journey of two brothers looking for their dog named ‘Rona’ – the only family they have after losing their beloved parents.

The scenes of the movie were captured in the City of Batac, and the towns of Pasuquin and Sarrat. The movie actors and crew members were his former schoolmates, friends, and some residents in the shooting areas.

“Because of its recognitions before, I became more encouraged to submit this film to an international competition. Then, I found an online platform that accepts short films from different parts of the world,” he narrated.

Cantala shared that his movie was an entry for an independent film festival here in the Philippines last October

2019. However, the movie was not included in the list of official selection of the film festival.

Instead of giving up, he submitted the movie to the Urduja Film Festival in the same year, which garnered three major awards: 2nd Best Film, Best Screenplay, and Best Child Actor for Andrei Coloma from San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte.

Also, *Rural Agents* was among the 100 select films shown during the Pelikula: 100 years of Philippine Cinema exhibit held at the Ayala Museum in Makati last August 2018.

A native of Sarrat, Ilocos Norte, Cantala has already created 10 films since 2013. He believes that film-making is relatively challenging and time-consuming, particularly in delivering a believable story in a creative way.

Currently, Cantala is working as a multimedia artist in a photography and videography studio in Laoag City. 🇵🇭

CAS mentor completes US-sponsored online course

By DANIEL P. TAPAOAN, JR.



A faculty member of the MMSU College of Arts and Sciences has recently completed an online course under the American English (AE) E-Teacher Program.

Mr. John Vincent B. Toribio underwent the course on Professional Development for Teacher Trainers from April 7 to June 2, 2020 offered by the Arizona State University, USA.

The eight-week course, administered by an international non-profit organization called FHI 360, is designed for both new and experienced teachers which taught them methods

for creating, presenting, and evaluating effective teacher training workshops.

The Regional English Language Office (RELO) of the U.S. Department of State nominated Mr. Toribio to the said program. After a screening process, Toribio became one among the selected participants from the Philippines.

Toribio received his digital badge and certificate for successfully finishing the course, saying that the course has equipped him with teacher training tools and strategies for impactful training in the local context.

Toribio expressed his gratefulness for the US Embassy for giving him an amazing and nurturing experience in a top US university and that he is excited to share his learning to the University.

The CAS mentor is also the chief of the Information Services unit under the MMSU Office for Strategic Communication, and the concurrent Editor-in-Chief of the MMSU Chronicle, the official in-house publication of the university.

Aside from Toribio, Dr. Mee Jay A. Domingo, another CAS faculty member, and Mr. Jerville Jake

Cabansag, Graduate School (GS) student, were the first and second participants of the AE E-Teacher Program, respectively.

Students from CAS and College of Teacher Education also enjoyed other U.S. programs such as the Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

The said course is among the online English programs which are being sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State.

The said department provides programs and materials on English language teaching and learning to countries such as the Philippines, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Brunei, Papua New Guinea, and the Pacific Island countries.

Ms. Connie Chico, the Cultural Affairs Specialist of the English Language Programs of the Embassy of the United States of America, commends the MMSU participants who complete the English online course, assuring that the program enhances the participants' skills for delivering engaging and relevant teaching. 🇺🇸

AE AMERICAN ENGLISH E-Teacher Program

Application Deadline: 11:59 PM, January 5, 2020



US org...from page 7

The book donation was the result of a tie-up between MMSU and the SDC-MLC on July 21, 2019 through a signed memorandum of understanding (MOU) which stipulates that the latter will help augment the university's learning resources and support its **internationalization programs**. On the same day, Dr. Agrupis served as the Guest Speaker in the induction program of the club's new members and officers, and became the seven new members of the organization.

Both parties also agreed to conduct humanitarian medical, dental and optical missions in various communities, and enhance the extension service competencies of MMSU faculty and staff. 🇺🇸

Smart donates pocket wi-fi to MMSU



The Smart Communications, Inc. donated 60 units of pocket wi-fi on June 4 to the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) for distribution to students and faculty who struggle to access the internet.

The wi-fi donation is part of the telecommunications company’s Distance Learning Support Program for MMSU.

“We would like to partner with MMSU to make distance learning possible and accessible to its students

and faculty members,” said Nina D. Escano, community consultant of Smart.

The Smart handed the tools to Prof. Wilben Christie R. Pagtaconan, director of the university’s Information and Technology Center.

Pagtaconan said the university and the company recognize that distance learning has become more significant nowadays since the education system has been severely affected by the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Aside from the wi-fi donation, the network also provided other partnership packages to MMSU: discounted internet devices for students and faculty; and free infocast for University updates and announcements.

For her part, MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis expressed that this effort from Smart further enriches the partnership between MMSU and the company. 🇵🇭

CIT prof gives e-load to 1,000 students

By DANIEL P. TAPAOAN, JR.

Around 1,000 students of the MMSU College of Industrial Technology (CIT) have benefited from the *Mobile Sakloload*, a free load drive that was initiated by a professor of the Department of Industrial Technology.

Prof. Jasper Kim Rabago gave Php50 worth of free load to CIT students so that they can submit their final requirements before the extended second semester ends tomorrow, June 4.

Rabago said the free load drive shows that the college understands the challenges that students encounter in their online classes.

“Initially, I sought to give e-load to my classes but since more individuals and groups donated cash for this effort, I decided to share it to other students,” he shared.

He emphasized that the Association of Social Science Students (ASSENTS), the organization he currently advises, facilitated the distribution of the e-load amounts.

Recipients are taking up BS Industrial Technology, Bachelor of Automotive Technology, Bachelor of Technical Teacher Education, and Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation

Program (ETEEAP) Food Technology.

“I hope that with this initiative, the students became more motivated to continue studying amid the pandemic crisis,” Rabago added.

Lastly, he thanked the CIT employees and alumni as well as his friends and relatives for their generosity to the CIT students. 🇵🇭



Univ plans for land use development

By SHERLYN B. NICOLAS



The MMSU Planning Office, in collaboration with the Land Use Development and Infrastructure Plan (LUDIP) Team, conducted series of planning on the four campuses of the University last June 10, 11, 18 and 25.

The initiative is in consonance with the development of the university's LUDIP until 2040, and the convergence of its functions as an academic, research, extension and production institution.

Prof. Reynold Villacillo, director of Planning Office, said the planning workshop includes the updating of initiatives, projects, and activities that are based at the respective campuses of the university.

MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis and other key officials of the university participated in the planning workshop held in the College of Aquatic Science and Applied Technology (CASAT) last June 10; Research Directorate, June 11; College of Agriculture, Food and Sustainable Development (CAFSD) –

Dingras, June 18; and Laoag campus (College of Teacher Education, College of Industrial Technology, and Graduate School), June 25.

Villacillo said that during the workshop, development plans and land boundaries were defined, adding that issues and concerns of each campus were laid down and solutions were formulated – a bottoms-up approach that the Office has applied.

He further said that more activities for the development of the university's land use plan will be conducted in the coming days.

The development of the LUDIP is also one of the major priorities of the present MMSU leadership. It is a requirement for state universities in accordance to Republic Act 11396, an act requiring State universities and Colleges (SUCs) to prepare and implement a land use development and infrastructure plan that shall include the construction of dormitories for students and housing sites for employees. 

PGIN ties with MMSU for Doctor of Medicine scholarship program

By JOHN VINCENT B. TORIBIO

The Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte is partnering with the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) as it intends to offer a scholarship program for medical students of the University.

In a consultation meeting conducted by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan with MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis at the Provincial Capitol Session Hall last June 25, the SP Committee on Education, chaired by Atty. Saul Lazo, inquired on the University's points as it finalizes the program's Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), which aims to support public health by increasing the number of committed doctors in the province.

Some points discussed were the eligibility or qualifications of

beneficiaries, the duties and the responsibilities of the scholars, condition of grant and termination of grant, selection and screening mechanics, and the provincial government's responsibility.

Dr. Agrupis crystallized that MMSU vows to produce doctors who are not only competent and skillful but also committed to serve the Ilokanos' *utak at puso*.

The president led the university team that responded to the queries of the provincial committee, which composed of Dr. Prima Fe R. Franco, vice president for academic affairs; Dr. Ricardo S. Guanzon, dean of the College of Medicine; Dr. James Peralta, COM secretary; Prof. Luvee Hazel C. Aquino, university secretary; and, Mr. Bryan James G. Budol, COM student council president. 



COM dean presents ways to cope with stress amid pandemic

By DANIEL P. TAPAOAN, JR.

Dean Ricardo S. Guanzon of the MMSU College of Medicine (COM) presented ways on how to cope with the stress caused by the corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic in a webinar series spearheaded by the Philippine Guidance and Counseling Association (PCGA) last June 4.

A truly relevant topic in these trying times, Dr. Guanzon, also a board member of the PCGA, discussed the Science of COVID-19: Coping Behavior as he presented the origin of the infectious disease, its causes, mode of transmission, signs and symptoms, incubation period, and preventive measures.

He explained how the arising anxiety amid the pandemic contributes to mental health problems, and discussed the simple coping mechanisms against it.

Guanzon said there are four types of coping strategies: appraisal-focused (challenging own assumptions through modify thinking and distancing from the problem); problem-focused (taking

control or removing source of stress); emotion-focused (reducing negative emotion due to exposure of stressors); and occupation-focused coping (changing occupation itself).

“It is normal to feel sad, stressed, confused, scared, or angry during the crisis,” he said, adding that one way of coping with these conditions is “talking to people you trust can help, like your family and friends.”

If staying at home, the medical doctor advised, “maintain a healthy lifestyle such as proper diet, sleep, exercise, and social contacts with loved ones at home, and by email and phone with other family members and friends.”

He, too, dismissed the idea that smoking, drinking liquor, and taking drugs can deal with stress. Instead, he suggested to talk to a counselor, and have a plan where to go and how to seek help for physical and mental health needs if required.

Another way of coping with the pandemic is to get information that will help determine risks so that everyone

can take reasonable precautions. This can only be done by finding credible sources such as websites of the World Health Organization, and a local or state public health agency like the Department of Health.

The one-and-a-half hour webinar series that was streamed in the PGCA’s YouTube channel gathered around 3,000 online viewers from all over the country. The viewers thanked and commended the COM dean for sharing such a relevant topic to them.

Formerly known as the Philippine Guidance and Personnel Association, Inc., the PGCA is a non-stock, non-profit organization duly incorporated and registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission in 1969, with amendments to its name and other items in its Articles of Incorporation approved by the SEC in 1998. It is the Accredited Professional Organization of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) for Guidance and Counseling, as well as a PRC-accredited Continuing Professional Education (CPE) provider. 🇵🇭

PHILIPPINE GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING ASSOCIATION
Integrated Accredited Professional Organization

Webinar Series

Science of COVID-19:
Coping Behavior

RICARDO S. GUANZON, MD, EdD, PhD, RPsy, RGC

11:04 / 1:29:03

Kuwentong MMSU



CONGRATULATIONS to our winners in the #KuwentongMaMaSU Challenge!

Indeed, your stories reflect how a Stallion strides through the MMSU roads -- Gallant, Brave, and Strong. May these kinds of stories continue to be re-echoed to inspire others so we can altogether leap above all odds, particularly the COVID-19 pandemic.

Babawi ako sa exam na 'to."
Bitbit ang libro at ang worksheet, tumatakbo dala ang walang kasiguraduhang inaral kagabi at ang pag-asang makapapasa. Minsay hiniling kong sana mas mahaba ang catwalk patungo sa CBEA nang sa gano'n ay hindi pa ako makarating sa classroom.

We are always reminded of the retention policy which squeezed every last bit of our hopes.

One exam counts as our last chance to stay as an Accounting Technology student.

Bumagsak, bumawi, bumagsak ulit, pumasa, grumaduate at ngayon ay title holder na rin sa wakas.



Anne Ramos **1st PLACE**



2nd PLACE

Ramileen G. Jumbacay

This spot is where I felt much pressured. We planned to have our Pharmacy Night. Walang available na venue inside and outside the university. So, we ended here. We made a total make-over, with red carpet pa. Two hours before the party, dark clouds appeared. Everyone panicked! I sun-danced! Why not? I am the President of Junior Pharmacists' Society (JPhS), and the burden of failure was on me. Dark clouds disappeared when the first year sang, "Praise and glory... Unto our God"

The night with glitters and gold was a real success, everyone enjoyed and had each own story to tell.



The most memorable day that keeps coming back to mind in my professional career was that one afternoon when Dr. Consuelo S. Blanco, the first University President, Atty. Ambrocio Blanco, the VP for Administration then and myself were standing in front of this Administration building along the driveway and assessing all the accomplishments in terms of buildings, road networks and other service facilities and utilities. Having planned and designed the Campus and the buildings of MMSU, I was asked by Dr. Blanco, "Architect how do you feel now that you have accomplished all these?" Immediately, I answered: "Ma'am, I feel like a conqueror." Both were stunned by my answer and this conversation became a frontpage feature in the then-MMSU Newsletter.



3rd PLACE

Bienvenido Magno

I feel in my tender palm the burning sensation of the morning sun. Earphones plump in my head, listening to the tune to whatever the last movie with a great soundtrack. But as I walk through this pathway, I see faces - faces of disdain, uncertainty, excitement, or tragedy. In a hurry, I see feet upon feet, and kicking the leaves and the dusts aside. As I walk through these pathways, has anyone ever noticed the fading red blood point at the middle of the poles? It made me wonder, I'm not the only one flapping my hand like a wing through this path. Soaring like a bird - head's high and closed eyes - I enjoy every rhythm as I spread my hands. This is the way. This is a thousand-step journey everyone is talking about. This is the MMSU way.



4th PLACE

Rovin Jacob Q. Pascua

Layout by Ryan Roi B. Domingo



Happy Independence Day

In our quest for a life-long freedom, may we treasure in our hearts and apply in our daily lives all the lessons from our rich history. We continue honor the valiant men and women who fought, and continue to fight, against oppression, as we remember their synergy, selflessness, sincerity, and spiritual strength.

Fighting for a common goal, they laid their lives for others; and, they offered all their battles to the Almighty.

Unity and cooperation, planning and organization, hardwork and commitment, honesty and integrity, above all NATIONALISM and FAITH IN GOD.

With these values, we can all be the heroes of today.

We are Filipinos. It is with this pride in our heritage and love of country that we persist, through suffering and victory, singing with fervor and hope: "Bayang magiliw, Perlas ng Silanganan.... Sa manlulupig, di pasisil."

SHIRLEY C. AGRUPIS
University President

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