



TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY BULLETIN

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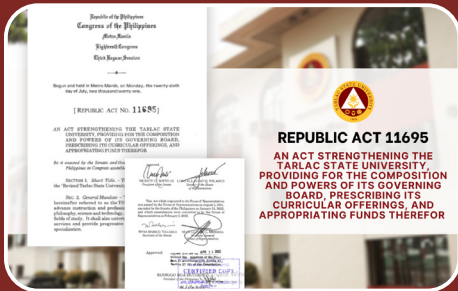


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President Velasco to TSU: 'If we have this teamwork, surely, we will soar even higher'

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Congratulations to the new Barian Lawyers!
2020/21 PHILIPPINE BAR EXAMINATIONS

65.38% First-Time Takers	58.70% Overall Passing Rate
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ATTY. MICHAEL JOHN O. DIMARUCUT
Exemplary Performance
(with 85%-90% passing score)

TSU SOL produces 27 new lawyers,
1 exemplary passer in the 2020-21
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Tarlac State University welcomed Dr. Arnold E. Velasco on April 1, 2022 – the first day of his term as University President.

President Velasco met and greeted some of the university's employees and faculty members, including his predecessor, Dr. Myrna Q. Mallari, at the Main Campus Administration Building.

In a short address, the new university president reminisced his time as a student at Tarlac College of Technology (now

TSU) and shared his struggles coming from a poor family – from his meager lunch of rice and tomato wrapped in banana leaves to taking up odd jobs to support his family and studies.

"Because I consider myself a dreamer – gusto kong maging engineer, nagpursigi po ako. Lahat ng klase ng trabaho pinasukan ko – tricycle driver, construction worker, nakakarating ako hanggang Angeles

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TSU qualifies in THE Impact Rankings, ranks 401-600 in SDG 11



TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY
TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION
IMPACT RANKINGS 2022

1 out of 1406 HEIs all over the world

1 out of 8 SUCs in the entire Philippines

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
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Out of the 1,406 higher education institutions (HEIs) worldwide, Tarlac State University is one of eight state universities and colleges (SUCs) and one of the 15 HEIs in the Philippines to rank in this year's Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings as per the results released by the organization last April 27, 2022 via their website.

In a message, University President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco said that TSU's inclusion in this year's THE Impact Rankings is a milestone in the university's more-than-100 years of history.

"We owe it to each member of the TSU community for his or her contribution to this initial success in our collective effort to join the rank of the world's best universities. As I said, this is just an initial step. Together, we will work hard to scale the mountain of

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New TSU charter enacted into law

■ Jazzel Llanelli M. Manabat

Republic Act No. 11695 or the new TSU Charter has lapsed into a law on April 11, 2022, according to the uploaded copy of the law on the Official Gazette website.

The new charter was enacted into law without executive approval or the signature of the president as per Section 27 (1), Article VI of the 1987 Constitution.

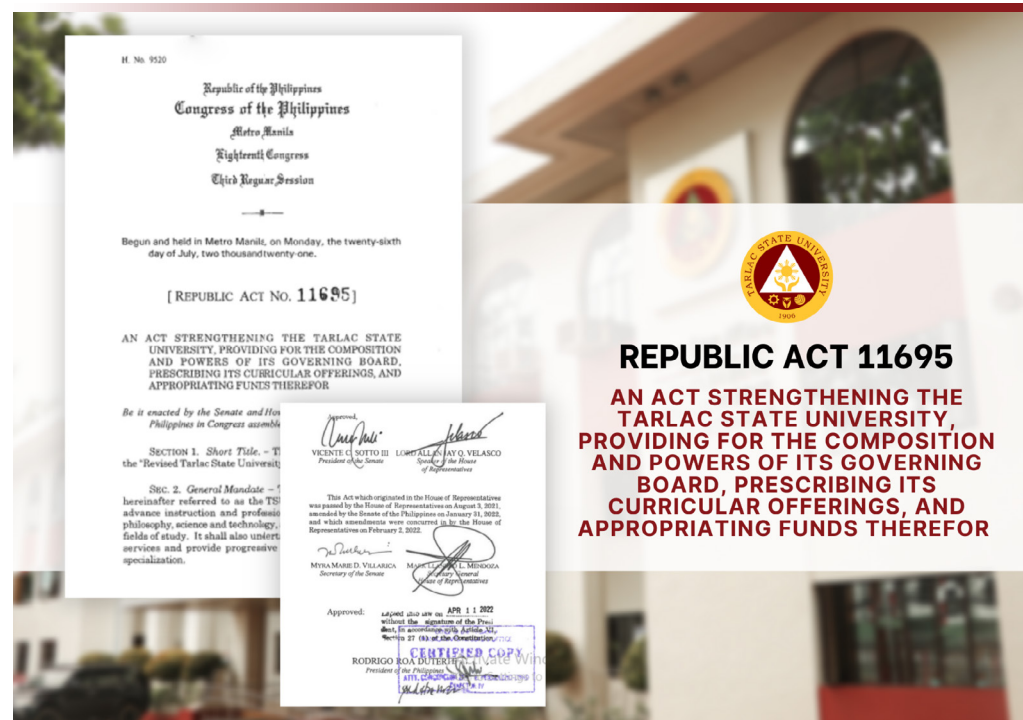
RA 11695, which governs the university on its operations, empowers the Board of Regents with additional powers for the benefit of the TSU community such as the disbursement of income generated for instruction, research, extension services, or other programs and projects of TSU, among others.

Moreover, the university's non-teaching staff association is now given a seat in the BOR as a member through the new charter.

The new law also states the expanded curricular offerings of the university as well as the laboratory school for early childhood, primary, junior and senior high school, and special education.

In a Facebook comment, Commission on Higher Education Chairperson Dr. J. Prospero De Vera congratulated and commended TSU and former president Dr. Myrna Q. Mallari for initiating the charter change towards the university's improvement.

"The congratulations should go to BatSU [Batangas State University] and President [Tirso] Ronquillo and TSU and [former] President [Myrna] Mallari. They



have continuously improved their SUC and deserve [the] legislative recognition. That is the reason why CHED fully supported these legislative measures," Chair De Vera said.

Along with TSU, Batangas State University's RA No. 11694 has also been enacted into law.

In 2019, the university formed a committee to study, update, and propose amendments to the then existing charter (Republic Act No. 6764). After careful deliberation and BOR approval, the

proposed amendment was elevated to the House of Representatives as House Bill No. 07797 filed on September 9, 2020.

Tarlac 2nd District representative Victor Yap served as the bill's principal author, which was supported by the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education chaired by Baguio lone district representative Mark Go.

Meanwhile, the senate counterpart of the bill was sponsored by Senator Joel Villanueva through the mother bill, House Bill No. 9520.

FEATURE

Drs. Mervin and Murphy Mohammed named as officers-in-charge of key TSU offices ■ Nerika M. Tabora [OPA Intern]

Tarlac State University President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco designated Dr. Mervin P. Mohammed as Officer-in-Charge of the Office of Planning, Performance Monitoring, and Evaluation effective April 20, 2022 until May 31, 2022.

The OPPME director position was previously held by Dr. Murphy P. Mohammed who is now the Officer-in-Charge of the Vice President for

Administration and Finance.

Dr. Mervin was one of the university's Pollution Control Officers in 2019. Before being designated as OIC director, he was a full-time faculty member of the College of Engineering and Technology under the Electrical and Electronics Engineering Department.

In an interview with the Office of Public Affairs, he said that this is his

first time handling a "big position."

"[The] Planning Officer is vital for the organization because they try to look into the future. Since we are an educational institution technically, all the departments within the organization are collaborating for developing [the] needs [of] the organization," Dr. Mervin said.

He also said that rising

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from a position entails skills development, cooperation in training and conferences, and compliance with research, extension, and other projects.

"To be an effective leader, first, you need to learn and know all the flow of the organization process so that we can function properly," Dr. Mervin added.

As per TSU Administrative Order No. 12, series of 2022 dated April 20, 2022, Dr. Mervin will perform the functions stated in Book I, Title III, Chapter 5, Articles 64-65, Section I, page 49 of the TSU Code.



New CCJE execs designated

■ Judith Muan [OPA Intern]

he completed in 2020.

He started his career at TSU as a security guard while reviewing for the Criminologist Licensure Examination (CLE). As a licensed criminologist, he secured a teaching position as an instructor in the Criminology Department of the College of Arts and Social Sciences in June 2013.

He was appointed as the chairperson of the said department in 2014 up until the university established CCJE as an independent college in 2016.

In January 2021, Dr. Alviar was designated as the CCJE Associate Dean, working closely with Atty. Theodore M. Timpac as the dean.

Dr. Alviar said that former CCJE dean Atty. Timpac is a hardworking and very dedicated person. While supporting the former dean, he mastered the day-to-day processes and operations that eventually prepared him to perform his duty effectively.

Meanwhile, OIC-Associate Dean Ms. Luzong finished the degree Bachelor of Science in Criminology as cum laude in 2016 at TSU.

She eventually pursued her graduate studies and earned her Master of Science in Criminology from Panpacific University in 2020.

She is now taking up Doctor

of Philosophy in Criminology at the Philippine College of Criminology.

Ms. Luzong is also a topnotcher in the October 2016 Criminologist Licensure Examination where she ranked 6th.

In 2017, Ms. Luzong first served as a clerk at the TSU Admission and Registration Office. She was then transferred to CCJE in 2018 as an instructor and became the department chairperson in 2021.

Her previous position in the college allowed her to become familiar with the tasks and responsibilities of an associate dean.

Dr. Alviar also described Ms. Luzong as a dedicated and diligent person.

"Everyone in the faculty is [dedicated and diligent]. There's a time for enjoyment and relaxation, but if it's work, they work. There is one goal at 'yon ang kapakanan ng aming college.'" Dr. Alviar said.

Ms. Luzong resonated with this statement from Dr. Alviar. According to her, she wants to instill unity and teamwork among her colleagues. She emphasized that their topmost priority is the college and the university.

The Office of the CCJE Dean plans to maintain the record as one of the

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top performing schools in the country in board examinations for criminologists. There will be continuity in the system and strict leadership for students.

In an interview, the new CCJE executives said that student discipline is critical and “knowledge will be nothing if a student is disrespectful.”

“No matter how high their position is or what they will get in the future, there should be humility,” Ms. Luzong said.

In addition, the college is also eyeing to open a graduate program in Criminology while waiting for the CHED

Center of Excellence accreditation. Also included in their plans is the offering of a refresher course for graduates who failed the board exam.

Moreover, Mr. Ramil M. Las-igan was appointed as the new department chairperson.

According to a congratulatory Facebook post of the TSU CCJE Student Council, the college has witnessed the first enforcement of its “Term Sharing Agreement.”

In their interview with Atty. Timpac, the former dean’s resignation, is part of the college’s five-year term sharing agreement, a product of a long-range plan and numerous negotiations.



Stylistics as an Approach to Teaching Literature

■ Prof. Jose Russell Arador [College of Arts and Social Sciences Faculty]

There are two important lessons that I have learned following years of teaching (and studying the teaching of) Literature. They are:

(1) *Students should be encouraged to make their own interpretations of literary texts and should be discouraged from relying on established or generally accepted interpretations by professional literary critics.*

In the past, when I taught Literature involving literary works written in English, I would usually require as reading texts short stories sourced from the 1960 classic *The Scope of Fiction*, authored by Cleanth Brooks and Robert Penn Warren, two pioneering members of the New Criticism literary movement. I thought the book was useful for two reasons:

First, I like the stories collected between its two covers, and I presumed my students would like them, too.

Second, every story in it comes with the authors’ analysis. In short, the book was convenient to use because it offers literary interpretations on a silver platter. There was no need for me to do the hard labor of “reading” the texts for meaning. The meaning was ready-made, and all that I needed to do was to proffer it to my students as gospel truth. As it turned out, I was wrong.

As Steve Buckledee, author of the article titled “Language and Literature in Tertiary Education: The Case for Stylistics,” points out: Students should not be taught to “repackage others’ critical opinions” but to “trust their own ability to interpret and evaluate a literary classic.”

But how exactly will English literature teachers do that? The answer to this question brings us to the second lesson I learned.

(2) *Students should be taught stylistics as a pedagogical tool to literary interpretation.*

According to H.G. Widdowson in his book titled *Stylistics and the Teaching of*

Literature, stylistics is the study of literature through the study of language use. He believes -- and I totally agree -- that literary analysis “is not a separate activity from language learning but an aspect of the same activity.” Through stylistics, two birds are hit with one stone, so to speak, because when we teach literature, we also teach language.

More interestingly, stylistics, according to Buckledee, “involves the analysis of structures and lexis in order to understand how the creative writer exploits the ambiguity of language to mean one thing while apparently saying another.”

I learned that without the use of stylistics in literary interpretation the process is reduced to an intuitive grasping for meaning. It is like groping in the dark to make our way through the house. On the other hand, the use of stylistics is like having a flashlight to light our way.

The use of stylistics also makes literary interpretation more concrete and systematic. What I mean when I say “concrete” is that the students are given clear and definite tools with which to work with literary texts. Linguistic resources are made available to them to tease out the meaning of a poem, a short story, or a novel. Intuitive or impressionistic interpretation is bereft of this advantage.

And what I mean when I say that stylistics makes literary interpretation “systematic” is that, by using it, students are forced to follow a step-by-step procedure using linguistic techniques. It makes literary interpretation more like a science than a guessing game because it becomes less dependent on intuition.

When the study of literary texts is concrete and systematic, the pedagogical purposes of literature teaching are clear-cut. In other words, the use of stylistics in teaching literature will make literature teaching more pedagogically sound. Students are guided

more properly as they navigate for meaning. It is clearer to them that they are studying literature not only to learn and appreciate other cultures but to experience how language is deployed to make a particular literary work, well, literary. The meaning of literariness, which used to elude them, is now made clear through an actual aesthetic experience of the literary texts guided by linguistic analysis.

Moreover, the non-stylistics aims of literature teaching become much more achievable through stylistics.

I also realized that the use of stylistics is not optional in the teaching of literature but something that needs to be introduced early on. The linguistic analysis of a work of literature is the very first step in “reading” it.

When students do a close reading of a text, they should do so for linguistic details first and for factual details next. The factual details are supposed to come out from the linguistic details.

And from the linguistic and factual details, the students can then do an interpretation (if need be, using such lenses as Marxism, Feminism, Post-colonialism, etc.).

Truly, stylistics, as Widdowson puts it, “occupies the middle ground between linguistics and literary criticism and its function is to mediate between the two.”

In sum, I believe that literature teaching should teach students to make independent and original interpretations of literary works. To make this possible, students should be guided in the use of the techniques of stylistics, which is more pedagogically effective than any other approaches because literary works are “instantiations” of the language system and thus lend themselves more easily to linguistic analysis. The other “purposes” of literature teaching become more achievable if literary texts are initially analyzed linguistically.

EDITORIAL

Transitioning to a new administration – whether institutional, local, or national – is never easy. It entails a certain change in management style, a bit of shaking in the organizational culture, and the welcoming of new faces to lead the pack. Change has often been unwelcomed by most people because changes are common sources of discomfort, especially when everything is already settled for such a long time.

The inevitable change has dawned both in the country and at Tarlac State University as new administrations are about to take their seats. The 2022 Philippine elections commenced in February 2022 while the last day of submission for the TSU presidency was also in February – particularly February 14th. While there could be a pressing need to keep the overall structure intact, it is still a fact that every administration that comes and goes has lapses and loopholes which can be learned from and improved.

Keeping the structure intact yet open

Based on the perspective of supporters of current administrations, their leadership styles and management tactics are already enough to keep the organization, or the country, going. However, critics may say otherwise. For critics who are leaning toward the overall improvement of the situation, they see the opportunities to rise and be better. Meanwhile, critics who are keen to topple the current leadership exhibit selective perception favoring the unfavorable. This is also true for supporters and critics of leaders vying for the most coveted positions.

Protecting the organization’s structure from changes may seem futile as change is indeed inevitable. One striking change for TSU is the installation of the sixth TSU president on April 1, 2022. Another unavoidable and planned structural change bound to happen to the university is the enactment of the new TSU charter (Republic Act No. 11695) into law in April 2022. These

have to be considered in the improvement and improvisation of the university’s plans. There is a need to retain the medium- and long-term plans crafted by the previous administrations, but the vision of the new leaders must also be placed in the equation.

It is worth noting that not all changes are negative. Some changes are meant to happen to shake the organization towards positive outcomes. There will be some form of hesitation and reluctance here and there, but a little bit of trust, confidence, and cooperation will surely keep the good part of the past intact and wholeheartedly welcome the good contributions of the present.

Under a new leader, in the person of Dr. Arnold E. Velasco, and with a newly enacted charter, the university is off to a fresh start. There could be actions that will shake the organization and its culture, and it is hoped that the shaking will be beneficial to the TSU community.

TSUAAI awards cash incentives to two board topnotchers

■ Judith Muan [OPA Intern]




Congratulations to our new TSUian Architects!

JANUARY 2022 ARCHITECT LICENSURE EXAMINATION (ALE)

TOP 6

RENDELL KLIATCHKO SOTTO • 81.60%

The TSU community is very proud of you!



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL PASSERS!

FEBRUARY 2022 MASTER PLUMBER LICENSURE EXAMINATION

INSTITUTIONAL PASSING RATE: 66.67% NATIONAL PASSING RATE: 62.38%

ENGR. KERVIN A. MELCHOR | TOP 10

TSU CET Civil Engineering Batch 2018 Graduate Engineer, TSU Facilities Development and Management Office **82.70%**

Two Tarlac State University Alumni, who are board examinations topnotchers for the first quarter of 2022, were awarded monetary incentives from the TSU Alumni Association, Inc. on April 27, 2022 at the TSU Lucinda Campus.

The recipients are Ar. Rendell K. Sotto from the College of Architecture and Fine Arts (CAFA) and Engr. Kervin A. Melchor from the College of Engineering and Technology (CET).

Sotto, who ranked 6th in the January 2022 Architect Licensure Exam (ALE), received a 10,000-peso cash incentive, while Melchor, who placed 10th in the February

2022 Master Plumber Licensure Examination, received a 5,000-peso cash incentive.

“I’m so honored and blessed to receive this recognition. I’m so grateful to start and finish my degree in this institution, and I have learned a lot from my mentors,” Sotto said.

Sotto completed both his undergraduate and secondary education at TSU.

The incentives were awarded by the TSUAAI President Hon. Reynaldo Catacutan, TSUAAI Board of Directors, TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco, CET Associate Dean Engr. Ferdinand L. Marcos, and CAFA Dean Ar. Garry M. Advento.

The event emphasizes the importance of recognizing the TSU alumni’s hard work and achievements through cash incentives after giving honor to the university. This is also meant to encourage the alumni further to represent the institution’s name better.

Moreover, a meet-and-greet between President Velasco and selected scholars of the TSUAAI and other alumni chapters took place during the said event.

The university recorded an overall passing rate of 51.02% in the Architect Licensure Examination and 66.67% in the Master Plumber Licensure Examination.

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(Pampanga) para lang magkaroon ng pamasaha sa pagpasok sa pag-aaral. And to cut the story short, naging engineer na po ako,” President Velasco said.

He also shared some of his priorities for the university, like human resource development.

“Gusto ko pong maramdaman niyo, hindi lang ako presidente – ‘yung concerned sa inyo... We will make this a community full of love, full of respect with each other... I will take the challenge that there will be opposition... parte po ng buhay ‘yan bilang presidente. But I will take it as a challenge to produce useful results for TSU,” he added.

Moreover, he said that his office will always be open to everyone, especially on important matters.

“We will work well as one. If we have this teamwork, surely, we will soar even higher with your help,” he said.

President Velasco also released an administrative order on the designation of university officials on holdover capacity effective April 1, 2022, until a new set of university officials will be appointed, unless sooner terminated.

TSU Development Plan turned over to President Velasco

President Velasco also received the university’s Development Plan for 2021-2025 from former President Mallari, together with the university’s vice presidents, in a ceremonial turnover on April 5, 2022 during the flag raising ceremony at the Main Campus.

This is the first time President Velasco is attending the university’s flag raising ceremony.

“This day is really memorable to me, maliban po sa April 1st. Hindi ko pa rin po

President Velasco to TSU: ‘If we have this teamwork, surely, we will soar even higher’

■ Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan



maintindihan – hindi pa rin po nagsi-sink in sa akin na ako na po ang 6th university president ng TSU. And with that, I owe it all to God. Ano pa po ang masasabi ko kundi ang mapasalamat sa Diyos for everything na ginagawa po niya sa buhay natin – sa buhay ko,” he said.

In her message, Dr. Mallari urged the TSU community to give respect and support to the new president continuously.

“And as I always say to you, not only last week, but every time I speak to you that it’s not about who the president will be. It’s not about who the vice presidents are; It’s not about who the deans and officials are – it’s about Tarlac State University. It’s about our love for TSU, and we ask you to continuously give our respect to the Office of the [University] President and to all our key officials,” Dr. Mallari said.

In response, President Velasco said he appreciated Dr. Mallari’s good heart

and went out of his way to give the former president a bouquet of flowers.

“From my heart, as a token of appreciation for your service, para sa inyo po ma’am, para sa mahal nating presidente. Thank you very much, and I really appreciate Ma’am Myrna for volunteering. I asked her, ‘Ma’am, I’m just new in the service; so, would you mind if I go [to you] anytime kung may problema po ako regarding management and makapag-hingi po ng advice sa’yo?’ And I’m really appreciative po sa sinabi ni ma’am na, ‘Anytime. I’m willing to share what I have and experienced.’ [To] whatever na ma-encounter ko po dito sa TSU na mga challenges, salamat po Ma’am Myrna for that promise,” he said.

Furthermore, he shared once more his proposed core values – Transparency, Service, and Unity which is an acronym for TSU.

He said that transparency is equitable to honesty, and through this, it will build trust. For service, he mentioned that “the greatest service we can give to the university is not our ability but our availability.” And for unity, he said that he could not do it alone. He will further develop the TSU community’s teamwork through love and respect.

“Magkaisa po tayo [na may] isang layunin in realizing our vision to become one of the top 1,000 sustainable universities not only in the Asia-Pacific, but in the world. I know that’s possible with your help... Magagawa po natin ang ating minimithi at inaasam for Tarlac State University,” he added.

President Velasco also mentioned enhancing the development plan presented to him. He also plans for the possibility of face-to-face graduation per the guidelines and protocols of the IATF-Tarlac.

TSU SOL produces 27 new lawyers, 1 exemplary passer in the 2020-2021 Bar exams

■ Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



65.38% First-Time Takers **58.70% Overall Passing Rate**

ATTY. ANGELICA D. AMURAO
ATTY. LOUIE M. BALCEDA
ATTY. ANIWAY L. BARCELONA
ATTY. RONILO U. BORJA
ATTY. RONNA RICA L. CO
ATTY. ROCHELLE M. DELMONTE
ATTY. MICHAEL JOHN O. DIMARUCUT
ATTY. RONALD JAY P. GOPEZ
ATTY. EMERALD L. LANSANGAN

ATTY. CRISTINA R. MAGCALAS
ATTY. GERALD Q. MAMARADLO
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ATTY. JOSEPHINE K. MASLANG
ATTY. JASON M. MASUERTE
ATTY. ARIANNE B. MELEGRITO
ATTY. MERVIN JOHN P. MERCADO
ATTY. ARNOLD ADELO P. OBILLOS
ATTY. TRISTAN G. OSONGCO

ATTY. CHRISTOPHER RONN Q. PAGCO
ATTY. MICHAEL JOSEPH A. PRELLEJERA
ATTY. ROSEL JOY A. PROVIDO
ATTY. ROBERT T. QUIAMBAO
ATTY. SHAN JEROME L. SAMOY
ATTY. JOMARCO L. SANTOS
ATTY. RENATO C. SILVESTRE JR.
ATTY. GERALDINE B. VILET
ATTY. CHRISTZABELLE L. VILLA

ATTY. MICHAEL JOHN O. DIMARUCUT
Exemplary Performance
(with 85%-90% passing score)

Greetings from the Tarlac State University community!

Twenty-seven new lawyers from Tarlac State University School of Law (SOL) who passed the 2020-2021 Bar examinations set the record as the university’s largest number of Bar passers since the law school’s establishment in 2008.

Part of the 27 Bar passers is Atty. Michael John O. Dimarucut, SOL batch 2021 valedictorian, who made it to the list of exemplary passers with grades ranging from 85% to 95%.

The traditional list of toppers has been replaced with the list of exemplary and excellent (95% above) examinees as previously announced by the Supreme Court through Bar chairperson Associate Justice Marvic Leonen.

TSU obtained a 65.38% passing rate for first-time takers with an overall passing percentage of 58.70%.

“I feel so proud. I thank the Lord for everything that happened. I consider it as a miracle kasi nga kanina pa kami nag-iiyakan dito. Para bang ang hirap lumipad, ang hirap mag take off, ang hirap ma-recognize if your passing rate is that low; but now we have 27 passers and we are proud,” SOL Dean Atty. Jose I. Dela Rama Jr. said in an interview with OPA.

Out of the 11,402 takers, 8,241 examinees passed the first digital Bar exams with a 72.28% passing rate, the second highest in Philippine Bar history following the 1954 Bar, which recorded a 75.17% passing.

Dubbed as the #BestBarEver, this year’s Bar exam comprises two batches (2020 and 2021) after the previously scheduled

exams were postponed due to the pandemic.

TSU Bar exemplary passer

Aside from being a law student, Dimarucut is also an accountant at the Commission on Audit. He juggled being a government employee by day and a law student by night.

“I started preparing na po [for the Bar exam] during law school days pa. Lagi kasi sinasabi ‘yan ng mga [professors] namin; the preparation for the Bar exams starts from the first day of law school daw. So, ayun, inipon ko lectures ko and reviewers. ‘Yun na rin ginamit ko sa Bar review. Dagdag na lang [‘yung mga] materials from review school,’ Dimarucut said in an interview.

He shared that he made a daily schedule of readings and video lectures to watch for his review since they were reviewing at their own homes.

Dimarucut said discipline is necessary because takers spend all their time reviewing at home.

He also shared some struggles concerning his health while reviewing. He tested positive for COVID-19 and underwent endoscopy after his frequent acid reflux. However, these did not stop him from achieving his dream of becoming a lawyer.

Scholarships in SOL

Three out of the 27 Bar passers are scholars under the Justice Jose C. Dela Rama Sr. Foundation, Inc., namely Atty. Rochelle M. Del Monte, Atty. Rose Joy A. Provideo, and Atty. Dimarucut.

The foundation shouldered Dimarucut’s expenses for review after

graduation.

According to Dean Dela Rama, Dimarucut was also a scholar under the AGAPE Brotherhood organization that covered his tuition each time he topped the class.

Dimarucut was encouraged by the SOL dean to pursue his Master of Laws so he could teach at the TSU SOL.

Retention policy and Bar review at SOL

Through Dean Dela Rama, TSU SOL implemented a retention policy to strengthen the school’s performance. First year students must meet the 78% general weighted average and 80% for second year to fourth year students.

According to him, the implemented retention policy made a huge difference in instilling discipline among law students. Aside from the retention policy, top students receive scholarship opportunities and free out-of-the-country trips as incentives.

Dean Dela Rama said he tried to conduct online lectures to help the takers before and when the Bar was nearing. The Justice Jose Dela Rama Foundation also chipped in for the series of lectures on all Bar subjects.

“They’re all reviewing at home. Although meron silang online reviews, nahirapan din sila kasi they have to take care of their family first and secondary na lang iyong Bar. Hindi mo malaman kung tutuloy or hindi. So, talaga iyong momentum nasisira para bang sisipagin then afterwards wag muna, ganun,” he said.

The Bar passers are set to have a testimonial dinner organized by the TSU SOL in May 2022.



Three IP communities in Tarlac receive livelihood training through handicraft making

■ Derich D. Bognot [ESMO]

More than 70 indigenous peoples (IPs) were provided with skills training on rattan, tiger grass, and vine handicraft production by the TSU-College of Teacher Education's Technology and Livelihood Education (TLE) Department in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Regional Office III, Provincial Science and Technology Center-Tarlac, and local government units (LGUs) of Mayantoc, San Clemente, and San Jose.

The three-day training was held on three consecutive Saturdays (April 11, April 18, and April 25) at three identified IP communities in San Jose, Mayantoc, and San Clemente towns of Tarlac.

Faculty experts from the TLE department were grouped into three. Each group was assigned to train the participants to come up with products using indigenous materials.

The DOST identified indigenous materials to be used for the products based on the widely available and most abundant resources in each community such as tiger grass in San Clemente, vine in San Jose, and rattan in Mayantoc.

The training covered basic principles of bamboo, rattan, and vine processing and utilization, preparation of raw materials, designing, execution process, and finishing techniques.

"Maragsakan kami ta adda kastoy a klasi ti training na lalu mi pay nga lalaingen. Dakkel nga banag ken tulong atuy para kenya mi ken para ti ub-ubraen mi," one of the participants said in Ilocano.



(We are grateful to be part of this kind of training because it helps us utilize and improve our skills and is beneficial to our livelihood.)

At the end of the training, the participants produced various handicraft items, including multi-purpose containers, rattan hats, baskets, and hand-crafted brooms, among others.

The final products will be displayed in an exhibit to attract potential clients.

Moreover, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Provincial Cooperative and Enterprise Development Office (PCEDO), Department of Tourism (DOT), and Got Heart Foundation will be tapped for the marketing and promotion of the products.

This completed extension activity of the college is under the long-term project eCEST. The said project aims to build a sustainable and resilient community by reinforcing efforts to alleviate poverty and improve the standard of living of the IP tribes in Tarlac.

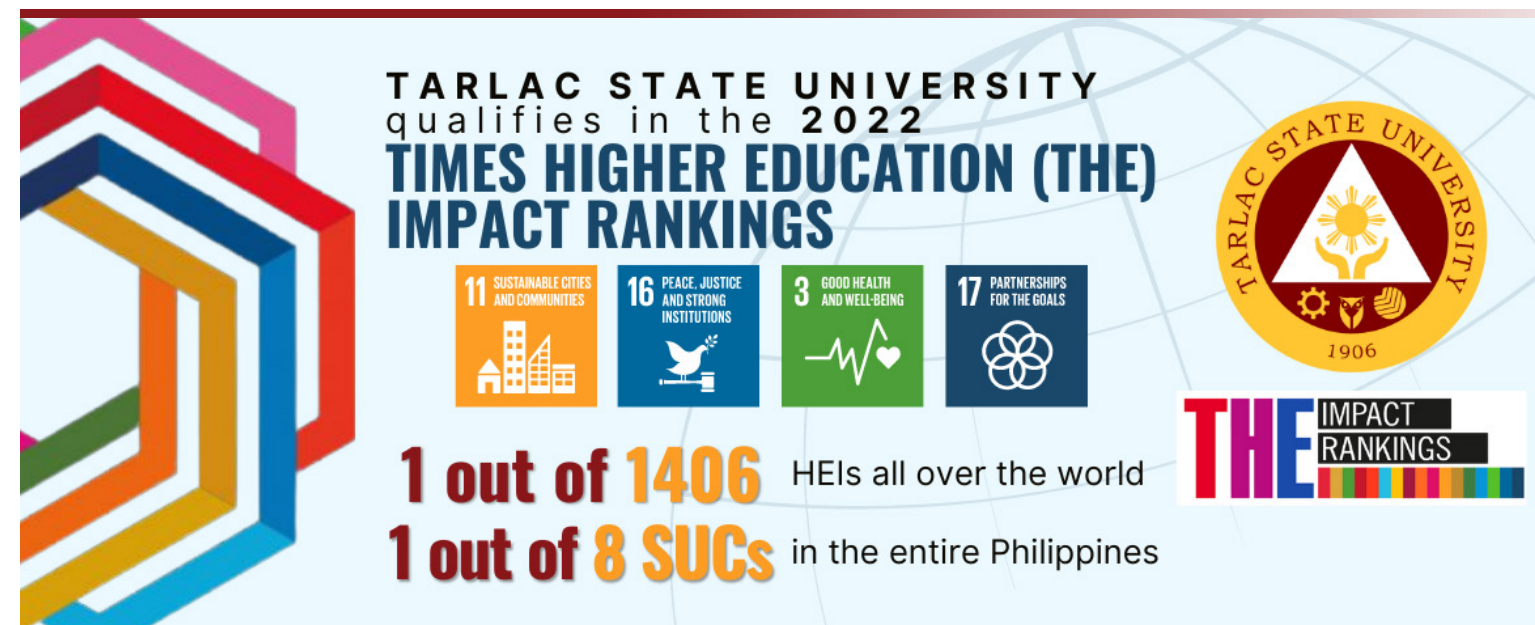
According to eCEST project leader and College of Arts and Social Sciences Dean Dr. Brendalyn A. Manzano, the eCEST project implementation is already at 50% accomplishment as of April 2022.

Different groups from the colleges of Business and Accountancy, Science, and Engineering and Technology are gearing up to deliver extension activities to the said communities based on their expertise in the coming weeks.



TSU qualifies in THE Impact Rankings, ranks 401-600 in SDG 11

■ Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan



TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY
 qualifies in the **2022**
TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION (THE)
IMPACT RANKINGS

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

1 out of 1406 HEIs all over the world
1 out of 8 SUCs in the entire Philippines

THE IMPACT RANKINGS

From page 1

global ranking until we are truly among the world's best," President Velasco said.

Similarly, former TSU President Dr. Myrna Q. Mallari expressed her gratitude to the TSU community. She said that the university's activities, notably that of the Extension Services Management Office (ESMO), actively address the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). "[Before] we have not highlighted them in our documentation. We were not so conscious about it because we are more [focused] on how to help. For example, 'yung international presentation ng ating [culture and] arts, hindi naman na-highlight sa mga communication natin 'yung SDG. But we know that this is a contribution. So, this is a learning lesson for us to document and capture all the SDGs that we would like to address. We can easily do it now, kayang-kaya ng TSU," Dr. Mallari said.

In the application process, TSU identified four SDGs with the mandatory area on SDG 17 or Partnerships for the Goals.

These four selected SDGs are SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).

Of the five SDGs, the university ranked the highest in SDG 11 with 38.9-53.3 points. This allowed TSU to be part of the 401-600 rankings out of the 783 institutions in the category.

According to the THE Impact Rankings Methodology 2022, SDG 11 is measured through the positive interaction between universities and their communities, urban and rural, that can last for generations. This also includes acting as a custodian for heritage and the environment in their communities as a sustainable community must have access to its history and culture to thrive.

TSU has supplied evidence in support of arts and heritage through the establishment of the Museo-Archivo Tarlaqueño, public access to its library resources, promotion of local arts by the TSU Performing Arts Chorale and Dance Troupe, and preservation of cultural heritage such as the celebration of Buwan ng Wika and Indigenous Peoples (IP) Month.

The university also reported its sustainable practices and the development of the Climate Change Resilient and Ecological System Conservation Park or TSU Lagoon as an outdoor recreational green space for the TSU community and even tourists.

Vice President for Research and Extension Services and Chairperson to the Committee on THE Impact Rankings Evaluation Dr. Armee N. Rosel shared in an interview that their team had overcome several challenges during the creation of the report.

According to VP Rosel, the most challenging task for the committee was choosing the best evidence because the report only requires three per SDG.

"I really studied the methodology (THE Impact Rankings Methodology 2022). For each [SDG], may guide ka

to which document you have to submit. Ang challenging role is really which SDG to choose and which evidence (sic). You need concentration to study the documents and choose the best among the many possible evidence," she said.

The THE Impact Rankings Methodology 2022 is a document given to applicants which includes an overview of the approach, a section on how the overall ranking is generated, and sections on each of the individual SDG measures.

VP Rosel thanked not only the cooperation and support of the TSU community but also the Tarlac Agricultural University (TAU) whom she had sought out for advice.

TAU is the first SUC in the country to be included in the THE Impact Rankings within the 601-800 overall rank in 2021.

Aside from TSU, TAU is also part of the 2022 rankings and other Region III SUCS, namely Central Luzon State University and Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology.

THE Impact Rankings are the only global performance tables that assess universities against the UN SDGs through calibrated indicators to provide a comprehensive and balanced comparison across four broad areas: research, stewardship, outreach, and teaching.

Moreover, the organization also released THE World University Rankings 2022 which includes more than 1,600 universities across the globe, making it the largest and most diverse university rankings to date.

TDTCO celebrates National Intellectual Property Month with webinar series, patent writeshop

■ Engr. Yvy Clydylynn T. Rabara [TDTCO]

Students and faculty members from different colleges of Tarlac State University participated in various intellectual property-related activities for the National Intellectual Property Month celebration this April 2022, spearheaded by the Technology Development, Transfer, and Commercialization Office.

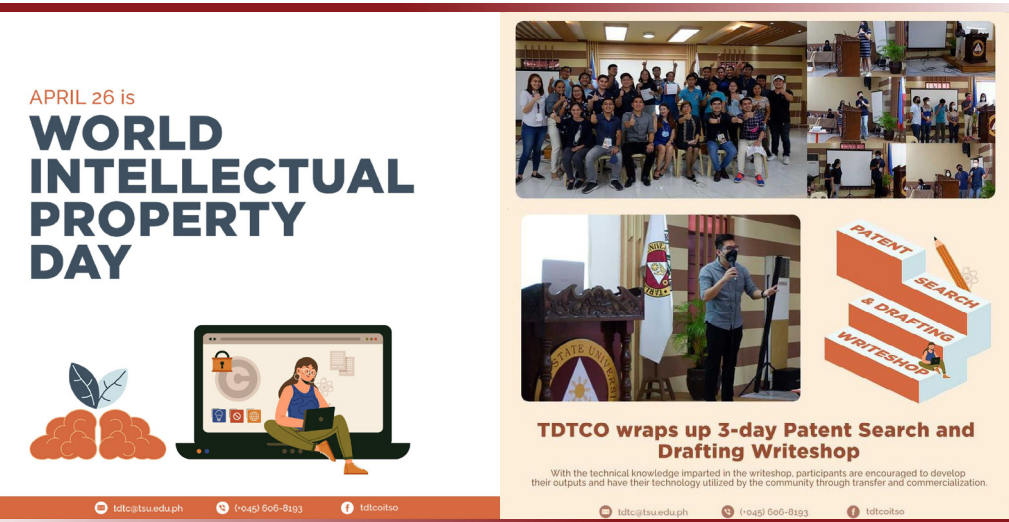
This year's Intellectual Property Month Celebration accentuated the involvement of young people in innovation and technological development.

Around 300 students and faculty members joined the "Foundation Course on Intellectual Property" webinar series on April 7, 12, and 19, 2022 via MS Teams.

To further instill IP awareness among the youth, Technology Transfer and Commercialization Unit Head Ms. Francelle L. Calub provided points on acquiring copyright, its types, and the ways of infringement and the penalties. She also discussed the types of marks that can be registered for trademarks and the filing and maintenance thereof.

Another leg of this webinar series is set to be held on May 2.

Meanwhile, Intellectual Property



Registration Unit Head Engr. Jayriz D. Dungca talked about patents, utility models, and industrial design. Discussing intellectual property protection on inventions by patent or utility model registration, Engr. Dungca also demonstrated how to spot an invention by introducing several patent databases. Moreover, the TDTCO also conducted a writeshop on patent search and drafting for faculty researchers and inventors on April 21, 22, and 26 at the Alumni Center of the Lucinda Campus.

The three-day writeshop consists of patent claim writing and introduction to various patent databases for conducting a comprehensive patent search and examination, which is an important process to ascertain the patentability of an invention.

Dr. Adrian Bon B. Santiago, IP specialist, faculty member, and Innovation and Technology Support Office (ITSO) Manager of Our Lady of Fatima University in San Fernando, served as the resource speaker.

With the technical knowledge imparted, participants were encouraged to develop their outputs and have their technology utilized by the community through transfer and commercialization. Also, through the motivation of Dr. Santiago, this year's participants are expected to have their technology registered for patent.

The attendees are from the following colleges and offices: College of Business and Accountancy, College of Engineering and Technology, College of Teacher Education, College of Science, College of Computer Studies, and Food Technology and Research Center.

Faculty researchers and inventors from the participating colleges and offices presented their technology to the plenary as the highlight of the activity.



6 MA Programs and 2 BA Programs undertake AACCUP 3rd survey visit

■ Ariz Rosal and Nerika Tabora [OPA Interns]

Attaining quality education through a sustainable external assessment, Tarlac State University's six graduate and two undergraduate programs were subjected to the online program accreditation 3rd survey visit of the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities, Inc. (AACCUP) this April 2022 via Zoom.

The programs Master in Information Technology, Master of Arts in Nursing, and Bachelor of Fine Arts major in Advertising were among the first batch that underwent the 3rd survey visit last April 6-8, 2022. Meanwhile, the programs Master of Arts in Education major in English, Filipino, Pre-School Education, Physical Science, and Bachelor of Physical Education were evaluated last April 27-29, 2022.

In both survey visits, TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco expressed his gratitude to the accreditors and stated that TSU adheres to the purpose of accreditation to ensure that programs will meet the standard levels of quality and excellence. By identifying the programs' strengths and gaps, further enhancements will be made to improve student outcomes, academic programs, and processes.

"There is a saying that it is difficult to be a judge of a picture if you're inside the frame. That is why the university continually offers programs for accreditation... So on behalf of TSU, we pledge and vow that we will abide and comply with all the recommendations and suggestions which will immerse from this week's visit," President Velasco said.

Dr. Isidro L. Duran of Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (DMMMSU), overall coordinator for the first online visit, conveyed their team's collective impression in acronyms -



DELTA for San Isidro programs (MIT, BFA) and OMICRON for the Lucinda program (MAN).

He shared that "DELTA" stands for dynamism, established, level-up, tangible, and accuracy, while "OMICRON" stands for outstanding, minimum, importance, commitment, redesigning, open-mindedness, and noteworthy.

Meanwhile, Dr. Renelda P. Nacienceno of Iloilo Science and Technology University, overall coordinator for the second online visit, showed her gratitude by acknowledging TSU's effort in the preparation and giving the accreditors outright attention to her overall impression.

"Allow me, and on behalf of AACCUP, to extend our gratitude to TSU for virtually laying a red carpet for the accreditors in terms of reception, the accommodation, cooperation, and

perseverance. Thank you very much for responding [to] our request for documents and additional pieces of evidence. For this successful endeavor and for everyone, cheers for a job well done," Dr. Nacienceno added.

The deans of the colleges involved, Dr. Alvincent E. Danganan of the College of Computer Studies, Ar. Garry M. Advento of the College of Architecture and Fine Arts, Prof. Mary Jane N. Rigor of the College of Science, and Dr. Jasper Jay N. Mendoza of the College of Teacher Education, responded and expressed their commitment to the recommendations for the enhancement of their programs.

As per AACCUP accreditation guidelines, the accreditors' evaluation reports will be forwarded to and scrutinized by the AACCUP Technical Review Committee. If the reports are found to be viable and accurate, AACCUP will grant the programs with NNQAA (National Network of Quality Assurance Agencies) "candidate status." Afterwards, they shall be included in the list of assessed programs.

Finally, upon receipt of AACCUP's certification of candidate status, the SUC (state universities and colleges) may claim the result as official.

This is the second and third batch of programs to undergo AACCUP's new guidelines for Levels 3 and 4 program accreditation implemented in April 2021.



TSU bags various awards in the virtual SUC III Olympics 2021, conducts first e-Intramurals

■ Ariz Rosal [OPA Intern]

Showcasing athletes' abilities in their respective sports, Tarlac State University participated in the first virtual State Universities and Colleges in Region III Olympics (SUC III Olympics) organized by the SCUAA III Board (State Colleges and Universities Athletic Association Region III) on April 18-22, 2022 via Zoom and SCUAA III's Facebook Page.

The host SUC for this year's virtual regional sporting event, themed "Reinventing Sporting Events in the New Normal," is Tarlac Agricultural University (TAU), headed by university president Dr. Max P. Guillermo. President Guillermo is also the current chairperson of the SCUAA III Board.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has lately limited our activities, it caused various changes in our way of living, truly it caused significant distractions in our lives (sic), but if there is one thing that this global crisis taught us, it is the importance of maintaining our health and well-being, thus, this SCUAA III Olympics is a powerful way of keeping ourselves fit and strong," TAU President Dr. Guillermo said.

"This year's Olympics is extraordinary and shows our resilience, anchored and stemmed, reinventing sporting events in the normal. This



and Management Unit Head Dr. Ligaya Salangang, and coaches, TSU garnered various awards in Basketball Women, Arnis, Archery, Mobile Legends, Chess, and Taekwondo.

"Nakaka-pressure po kasi hindi na po namin alam 'yong pakiramdam po ulit na maglaro po pero nababawi naman po satraining po atsaka sa guide po ng coach namin. Nakakapanibago po kasi [because of the pandemic], hindi katulad dati naparang 1 year 'yong preparation para sa SCUAA, kahit na may pasok ganyan, nakakapag-training kami sa dug out. Ngayon po kasi hindi po, may kanyakanya po kasing ginagawa sa bahay," Elimar Sidoru, Archery men's category winner, said.

When asked about the situation in the tiebreaker, Sidoru said he felt the pressure because he may lose with one mistake. However, he acknowledged that pressure is part of the game and that he will accept whatever the results.

The athletes also experienced adjustments due to the restrictions brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Bali consistency lang po talaga ang kailangan, pati sa pagte-training, sa mga bawat galaw kung paano i-anchor 'yong string mo. Kailangan talaga ng consistency para 'yong bala mo, mag group. Hindi importante 'yong mag gold [medal] lang, kailangan talaga mag group 'yong bala mo at alam mo kung paano i-adjust. Mahirap [because of the pandemic], humina ka kasi parang back to zero ka.

Sa totoo lang kasi, ang bigat ng pana, hindi mo kakayanin ng walang training at walang work out," Lea Macaraeg, Archery women's category winner, said.

The SUC III Olympics 2021 was participated by athletes from 13 SUCs in Region 3.

TSU's first virtual Intramurals

Right after the SUC III Olympics week, the university held its first e-Intramurals 2022 on April 25-30, 2022, where the College of Computer Studies Red Hawks emerged as the overall champion.

Following CCS in the ranking is the College of Teacher Education as the 1st runner up, College of Engineering and Technology as 2nd runner up, and College of Science as the third runner up.

The e-Intramurals seeks to promote teamwork, camaraderie, and sportsmanship among students. This is also the time for students inclined to mobile and computer games to take a step into the limelight as the event mainly focused on said games.



LIST OF SCUAA III WINNERS			
No	NAME	EVENTS NAME	PLACE
1		ARCHERY MEN	
	SIDORO, ELIMAR M.	ARCHERY 70 M DISTANCE MEN	3RD
	SIDORO, ELIMAR M.	OLYMPIC ROUND	2ND
2		ARCHERY WOMEN	
	MACARAEG, LEA IRES C.	ARCHERY MIX TEAM	2ND
	MACARAEG, LEA IRES C.	ARCHERY 70 M DISTANCE WOMEN	3RD
3		ARNIS MEN	
	PACOMA, NESTOR RHENEE JAY P.	ANYO ESPADA Y DAGA	1ST
	DUAZO, REY ANTHONY	ANYO SINGLE WEAPON	2ND
4		ARNIS WOMEN	
	NECERIO, LEVERENZ	ANYO DOUBLE WEAPON	4TH
	SICAT, LOURD GUINEVERE L.	ANYO ESPADA Y DAGA	7TH
5		ATHLETICS MEN	
	SALCEDO, NESHAINA P.	SINGLE WEAPON ANYO	5TH
	PADAAN, LEONARD	ATHLETICS, 5,000 M RUN	4TH
6		ATHLETICS, 10,000 M RUN	6TH
	VERANO, MARY ROSE	DOUBLE WEAPON ANYO	5TH
	BUÑAG, MARIAH ANN	THREE-POINT SHOOTING	4TH
7		ATHLETICS, 3,000 M RUN	10TH
	DAYRIT, FLORAINE	THREE-POINT SHOOTING	5TH
	STA. ANA, JACOB G.	CHESS MEN	4TH
8		BASKETBALL WOMEN	
	CARREON, MELIZAH RUTH	CHESS WOMEN	2ND
	ESCUETA, NIKO JOHN	E-SPORTS ML MEN	3RD
9		E-SPORTS ML MEN	
	TABAGO, HERNAN	E-SPORTS ML MEN	3RD
	PENIQUITO, JEREMIE	E-SPORTS ML MEN	3RD
10		E-SPORTS ML MEN	
	CUTAMORA, LOUIS JOSEPH	E-SPORTS ML MEN	3RD
	RAFAEL, JOSE RODOLFO	E-SPORTS ML MEN	3RD
11		E-SPORTS ML MEN	
	BRIONES, ANTHONY	E-SPORTS ML MEN	3RD
	VELASQUEZ, JERRY MAE D.	E-SPORTS ML WOMEN	5TH
12		E-SPORTS ML WOMEN	
	GALINDO, CHRISTINE G.	E-SPORTS ML WOMEN	5TH
	PASCUA, JELLA MARIE V.	E-SPORTS ML WOMEN	5TH
13		E-SPORTS ML WOMEN	
	LLANA, JOICE RENEE	E-SPORTS ML WOMEN	5TH
	DAYRIT, FLORAINE	E-SPORTS ML WOMEN	5TH
14		E-SPORTS ML WOMEN	
	GALANG, KATHLYN	E-SPORTS ML WOMEN	5TH
	BAUTISTA, MARK CHESTER AUGUSTINE G.	POOMSAE PAIR	6TH
15		TAEKWONDO MEN	
	DE ASIS, JOHN VLADIMIR T.	POOMSAE INDIVIDUAL	3RD
	VILLAFUERTE, ALYSSA ANDREA	POOMSAE INDIVIDUAL	2ND
16		TAEKWONDO WOMEN	
	VILLAFUERTE, ALYSSA ANDREA	POOMSAE TEAM	2ND
	BAUTISTA, MA. KRISTINA	POOMSAE TEAM	2ND
17		POOMSAE TEAM	
	SAN VALENTINE, LHERA	POOMSAE TEAM	2ND
	BAUTISTA, MA. KRISTINA	POOMSAE PAIR	6TH



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@opaitsu

+63 45 606-8123

opai@tsu.edu.ph
helpdesk@tsu.edu.ph

TSU BENCHMARKING ACTIVITIES



Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University benchmarked the TSU Administration on April 21, 2022



Ifugao State University benchmarked the International Affairs and Linkages Office and the Office of Public Affairs on April 26, 2022



Isabela State University benchmarked the College of Public Administration and Governance, College of Business and Accountancy, and Business Center on April 20, 2022.



Northwest Samar State University paid a courtesy visit to the Office of the President and visited the Advanced Manufacturing Training Hub of the College of Engineering on April 25, 2022.



President Ramon Magsaysay State University benchmarked the Management Information Systems Office on April 27, 2022.

EIGHT YEARS OF MANAGING QUALITY MILESTONES

■ Maria Adelaida D. Calayag

Tarlac State University's fifth president, Dr. Myrna Q. Mallari, stepped down from the presidential position after eight years of service where she managed quality milestones for the university.

She rendered her last day of work as TSU President last March 31, 2022 with numerous infrastructure projects completed and institutional awards and achievements garnered. She successfully equated TSU's name to a university that provides quality education.

In an interview with the Office of Public Affairs last 2018, Dr. Mallari was asked about the legacy she would leave at TSU when she retires or steps down from her position. She courageously answered, "empowerment." According to her, she wants to empower all employees who have the highest hopes but with tiny voices. She wants them to experience pushing themselves to the limit of their abilities.

"Time will come that I will no longer be there. I may not be there to serve as the voice of those who are voiceless, [but] I want them to be firm, brave, strong, and to have a voice of their own," Dr. Mallari said.

Dr. Mallari started her career at TSU as an accounting clerk in 1979. She became a n



instructor and joined the teaching workforce in 1980. Later, she became the Dean of the College of Business and Accountancy from 1995 to 1998.

After serving the university as college dean, she was appointed as the Vice President for Administration from 2006 to 2009. Meanwhile, in 2009, she was delegated as the OIC Director of Graduate Studies until she became the full-fledged director from 2010 to 2012.

And on April 1, 2014, Dr. Mallari was installed as the fifth TSU President.

Dr. Mallari's educational background is as stellar as she is. She graduated in 1979 as a cum laude from the University of the East with a degree in Bachelor of Science in Business Administration-Accounting. She then completed her master's degree in public administration at TSU in 1985.

Furthering her knowledge in business administration, she pursued her doctoral degree at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines and graduated in 1994.

Starting in 1994, Dr. Mallari holds the rank of Professor VI. Her current professorial rank is University Professor. She is also a certified public accountant.

During her term as TSU President, she faced several struggles. One of which is the protest staged by freshmen applicants

who were not qualified for the TSU College Admission Test. It was also during her administration when the COVID-19 pandemic struck. But with her prowess and innate leadership skills, she surpassed each hurdle with grace and elegance.

Her administration led TSU to greater heights in quality assurance as she instilled among the members of the TSU community the culture of quality. When her stint as university president started in 2014 until 2022, TSU reaped quality assurance milestones such as the Level IV Institutional Accreditation by the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACUP, Inc.), Philippine Quality Award (PQA), three ISO certifications or the Integrated Management System, and Times Higher Education Impact Rankings.

The hardworking and generous president had also forged several memoranda of agreement and understanding with private and public institutions locally and internationally.

Aside from institutional achievements and awards, Dr. Mallari was also recognized as an outstanding individual. She received several awards like the Outstanding Tarlaqueño Award in 2016 from the Provincial Government of Tarlac, Outstanding PICPA Member for

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Central Luzon from Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) in 1999, and Outstanding CPA in Education in 2008, also from PICPA. She is also a distinguished TSU alumna which was awarded in 2018.

Her most recent awards are the Civil Service Pagasa Award-Individual Category during the 2021 Search for Outstanding Government Workers - Regional Honor Awards Program Awardee of the Civil Service Commission and the Gawad Para sa Natatanging Kawani of Tarlac State University on March 31, 2022.

Furthermore, Dr. Mallari also occupies numerous positions in various organizations. She is currently the AACUP Board of Trustees Chairperson and has served as its president from 2017 to 2018.

Getting more personal with Ma'am Myrna

Dr. Mallari (Ma'am Myrna or Ma'am Meng to her close friends) is married to Dr. Noel Mallari, a former TSU professor. They are blessed with three children who are all achievers, Napolexon who is a medical doctor, Myrel who is a professor at TSU, and Nathaniel who is an engineer.

Her only daughter, Dr. Myrel Santiago, who happens to be the Director of the Office of International Affairs, recalled stories of how his father courted the young Myrna who was a transferee at



Tarlac High School (now Tarlac National High School) from Santo Tomas town in Pampanga.

Dr. Myrel shared that her parents were in their third-year high school when their love started to prosper. His father instantly fell in love with Ma'am Myrna. Sir Noel would borrow Ma'am Myrna's notebook where he secretly inserts love letters. This started from her science notebook, then her Filipino notebook, up to almost every notebook that Ma'am Myrna owns. Sir Noel also used to write Kapampangan poems (poesyang Kapampangan) for Ma'am Myrna as his way of courting.

She jokingly concluded how her name (Myrel) was coined from the combination of her parents' names, MYRna and noEL.

Ma'am Myrna is now preoccupied with looking after her ten grandchildren. She expresses her joy with all her

grandchildren, most especially baby O, the youngest grandchild who happens to be Dr. Myrel's youngest daughter. She supports her granddaughters' admiration of the K-Pop boyband, BTS.

MQM Trivia

First off, among the meals Ma'am Myrna is known for is Paksiw na Bangus, one of her favorite dishes. It is not a surprise to those close to her, especially her "breakfast club" at the office, that Paksiw is often served as breakfast during meetings or events at TSU. Aside from Paksiw, Ma'am Myrna also loves Bulanglang na Bangus, a Kapampangan version of Sinigang that uses the Bayabas fruit.

Lately, when the TikTok app reached its peak, Ma'am Myrna loves dancing the Paro-Paro G trending moves.

Ma'am Myrna is also known in the university as a devout Catholic, serving as a lector/commentator at San Rafael Parish in Tarlac City.

She is also dubbed as the prettiest SUC president in Central Luzon.

Lastly, no one can ever beat her punctuality. She hates being late and arrives at TSU as early as 6:00 in the morning, one hour earlier than the official start of office hours which is 7:00 AM.

With her cool personality, impeccable time management skills, and outstanding governance, she attained quality milestones within her eight years as the mother of Tarlac State University.



CONGRATULATIONS

to the newly licensed TSUian ECEs and ECTs!

APRIL 2022 ELECTRONICS ENGINEER AND ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN LICENSURE EXAMINATION

	ECE	ECT
FIRST TIME TAKERS	33.33%	86.21%
INSTITUTIONAL PASSING RATE	35.29%	86.67%

The TSU community is very proud of you!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW TSUIAN EDUCATORS!

MARCH 2022 LICENSURE EXAMINATION FOR TEACHERS

	ELEMENTARY	SECONDARY
FIRST TIME TAKERS	-	70.00%
INSTITUTIONAL PASSING RATE	57.61%	45.10%
NATIONAL PASSING RATE	48.89%	41.73%

The TSU community is very proud of you!

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OF HUMBLE BEGINNINGS AND CONQUERING DREAMS

■ Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan



As Dr. Myrna Q. Mallari neared the end of her term as University President, the Tarlac State University Board of Regents opened its search for the next TSU President last January 27, 2022. After it closed on February 14th, the Search Committee, led by Dr. Lourdes E. Abadingo, came up with five candidates to prove themselves worthy of the position.

The candidates subjected themselves to a public forum at the TSU Gymnasium and panel interviews with the Search Committee and the TSU BOR. On March 31, 2022, Dr. Arnold E. Velasco, Tarlac Agricultural University's Vice President for Academic Affairs, emerged victorious.

One might feel apprehensive about the new president as he is not "homegrown" like some of the other candidates—however, this native of Sta. Ignacia, Tarlac is a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering graduate of Tarlac College of Technology (now TSU) in 1989.

His former professors at the then College of Engineering, Engr. Camilo Rivera, former dean Engr. Oscar Galvez, and Dr. Leodegardo Pruna, were elated upon hearing about Dr. Velasco's appointment.



In a social media post, Engr. Galvez expressed his sentiments about the pleasures of teaching.

"I am overjoyed and proud after one [former student] returned as the TSU President. Truly, I feel very much rewarded," he said.

Dr. Velasco is the first engineer to become president of TSU.

Grit and determination

Even after getting his bachelor's degree, Dr. Velasco continued his quest for higher learning. What prompted this relentless pursuit of knowledge? What inspired this diligence to study hard and work even harder?

Born to a construction worker and a housewife, Dr. Velasco grew up destitute. Remembering the past, he shared that his parents were already satisfied with him and his five other siblings being able to read and write; but he thought otherwise.

"Nakita ko kasi 'yung buhay na if you will not study harder, if you will not strive, kawawa ang mga kapatid ko. Nakita ko na 'yung sobrang hirap ng buhay. Iyon ang nag-motivate sa akin. As the eldest, ako dapat ang magpakita - magsikap mag-aral kahit mahirap... at mapag-aral ko ang mga kapatid

ko. Tiniis ko po ang lahat ng iyan," he said.

After graduating high school, a young Velasco told his parents that he wanted to become an engineer. However, he was immediately shut down, for their family could never afford to pay, not even his fare costs.

Still, he was determined. He took odd jobs from their neighbors and did chores. He also moonlighted as a tricycle driver and a construction worker.

"During summer, ang pinakamalayo kong napuntahan ay Abra, Benguet - gumagawa ng dam, etc. Basta may marinig akong 'construction,' kahit gaano kadami, sumasama ako... Kahit anong trabaho, tinatangap ko. Nagpapasada ako kahit gabi. Kahit na nag-aaral ako, kahit papaano nakakatulong din sa pamilya," he said.

A student during the day; a worker during the night. For five years, he only had a single pair of shoes and his trusty backpack littered with stitches. Eventually, he graduated from college. But as the eldest, Dr. Velasco could not allow it in his heart - to neglect his younger siblings.

He shared that four of them should have been in high school altogether, but because they were poor, they could not. He decided to teach at Sta. Ignacia Academy to motivate them to finish high school. At the same time, he could save up for his electrical engineering board exam review.

"The review would cost you 20,000 pesos. Saan ako makakakuha ng ganoon? So, I decided na magturo para ma-convince ko din 'yung mga kapatid ko. Sabi ko, 'Magtuturo na 'ko. At pag-nagturo na ako, 'wag kayong mahiya. Teacher niyo din ako.' Na-convince ko

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naman sila... sabay-sabay silang 1st year," he said.

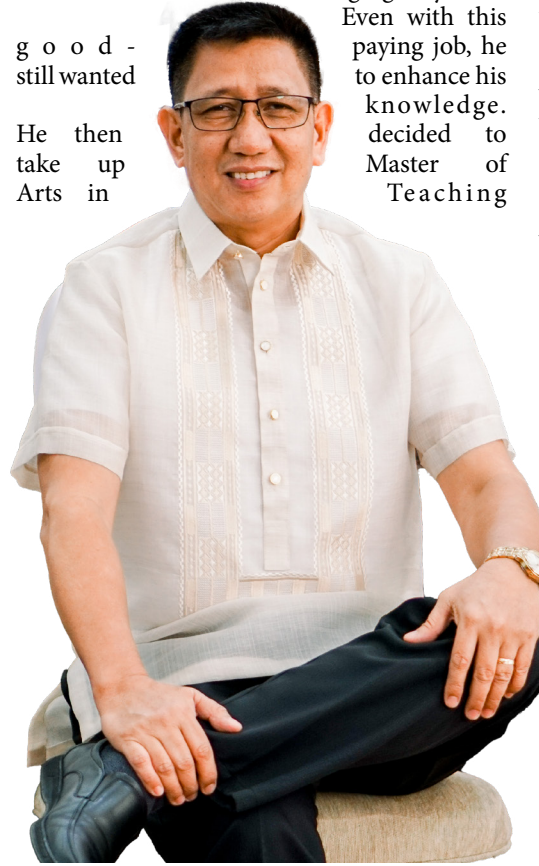
As an engineering graduate, he could not simply teach in high school. He must earn education units at night, so he can continue teaching. So, during weekdays, he was a high school teacher; on Tuesday and Thursday nights, he attended classes at Camiling Colleges. In addition, he would also teach vocational courses at St. Paul College of Technology in Camiling and Trinity Arts and Technical Academy in Paniqui for his family's expenses.

For four years, his routine was home, school, and work; but he did not stop there. After finishing his education units in 1991 and saving enough money, he braved and passed three national examinations - Career Service Examination-Professional Level on January 25, Professional Board Exam for Teachers on July 12, and Electrical Engineering Licensure Examination (EELE) on October 22.

"Noong pumunta ako sa classroom ng mga kapatid ko, sabi ko 'engineer na ang kuya niyo!' Lumulundag-lundag silang tatlo. [Sabi nila], 'Yehey! Mayamin na kami! Mayaman na kami! Engineer na si manong ko!' Ang inisip kasi nila kapag engineer, mayaman," he said.

After passing the EELE, Dr. Velasco bid farewell to teaching and started to practice his profession as a Preventive Maintenance Engineer at Altius Mainteneering Corporation in Bicutan, Taguig City.

Even with this paying job, he still wanted to enhance his knowledge. He then decided to take up Master of Arts in Teaching



Mathematics at Tarlac College of Agriculture (now TAU). On weekdays, he works in Bicutan; and during weekends, he studies for his master's degree.

One of his professors, who happened to be the Dean of Engineering, noticed his diligence and sacrifice for his family. After graduating as an Outstanding Student in his master's program, Dr. Velasco received a call from his professor offering him a teaching position at TCA. Though his salary would only be half of what he was earning as an engineer, he chose to go back to teaching to be nearer to his siblings.

It seemed that Dr. Velasco's true calling was in the academe. He spent his 28 years studying, teaching, and researching while doing administrative service.

During his term as the TAU College of Education Dean in 2014, he received criticism for being an engineering graduate, yet this did not deter him from leaving a legacy at TCA. He wanted the college to become a Center of Development (COD). After long, arduous working hours, the college received a certification higher than a COD in 2016 - the Commission on Higher Education's certification for Center of Excellence.

"I am a dreamer. I dreamed to become an engineer despite the status of our life. 'Di kaya ng mga magulang ko. Pero kapag dreamer ka, magwo-work ka... iwu-work mo 'yung dream mo na 'yun. Walang imposible," he said.

On dreaming of becoming a university president

When asked if he dreamed of being a university president, Dr. Velasco bashfully said 'yes.'

He encountered several difficulties when he was about to submit his application to TSU. At 4:00 PM on February 14th, his documents were not yet ring-bound. Luckily,

someone offered to help. When he was about to submit at the TSU Main Campus, rain poured heavily; but the Civil Security Unit staff on duty were kind enough to offer their umbrellas.

"Sabi ko sa Diyos, kung talagang gusto niya 'kong maging president ng TSU, then this is my sign. If You will let me apply at TSU, then president na ako... Kung titignan mo, outsider ako... 'di naman ako malakas sa politicians... That's how I trust God," he said.

Admittedly, Dr. Velasco said he had difficulty adjusting to his new life as the TSU President, mainly since he resides in Malasiqui, Pangasinan, with his wife and three boys.

"My wife was really used to be with me always. Hindi 'yun kakain hanggang hindi ako umuuwi... Hindi pa siya nakapag-adjust na wala ako sa tabi niya... I [ask] God to give us the capability na ma-cope namin 'yung ganoon... I really miss her pero para po sa Tarlac State University. I know God will make a way para malampasan namin ito... Sabi ko nga may purpose ang Diyos for having me in TSU," he said.

A mix of happiness and loneliness, the new president said that he would persevere so he could serve TSU. Currently, he stays at the TSU Hotel on weekdays and goes home to Pangasinan on the weekends.

The road ahead

Last March 28, an aspiring Dr. Velasco took center stage and presented his vision, mission, goals, core values, and strategic directions and programs to the TSU community.

His vision for TSU is to be one of the top 1,000 sustainable universities in the world - a monumental task. However, the new president isn't troubled at all.

"I believe He has a purpose for me.

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Being the sixth president, I believe that He will guide me in realizing the vision, mission, and my dream for my alma mater, Tarlac State University," he said.

His current priority lies in human resource development. During the interview, he said that he wants to allocate more funds to enhance capabilities and upgrade human resource qualifications, both from the teaching and non-teaching personnel, by sending them to different national and international trainings.

"I really want the TSU community to have this unity. I want them to be empowered; I want them to have a heart in realizing the vision of the university. Kahit na 'yung pinakamaliit na empleyado ay meron siyang participation," he said.

Furthermore, he added that no matter how impossible the vision could be, if the faculty and non-teaching personnel are contented, satisfied, and happy, they can serve better and provide better quality education and services to students.

Dr. Velasco also noticed that only a few conduct research. As one of his challenges, he plans to strengthen the university's research

capability. If possible, he wants to invite speakers from funding agencies, which is the practice in TAU. He explains that participants will present their final output for evaluation during a three-day training so that the proposal would have a higher chance of approval.

He also said he supports the solar technology initiatives of TSU as a technological university. He appreciates the university's exemplary partnership with the Department of Science and Technology.

"We have to train others because soon we will be retiring. It's not only the research components, but we are also extending this technology to the community. 'Yun naman palagi ang end result ng research. It should be disseminated to the community for them to see it; for them to improve their socioeconomic status. Tutukan po natin 'yan sa term ko po as president," he said.

He hopes that this and many of his other initiatives will be put into action to make TSU a premier research university.

Aside from faculty development and research, he also plans to increase student scholarships and amend the faculty scholarship contract to encourage more faculty members to pursue post-graduate studies.

He said that an amendment would

only be fair because the faculty could give back to the university by applying what they have learned to the students' benefit.

For student relations, he insisted on having a regular "talakayan" – a meeting with student leaders where they have the chance to air out their grievances and sentiments. By identifying the problem early on, with the help of college deans and concerned faculty members, he said they could work together to look for appropriate solutions.

"Sabi ko nga, our students are our major clients – the very reason we have TSU. We have to address their concerns. I have many programs. I cannot share the details as of yet, but I am here for our students. We are here to serve our students," he said.

With his four-year term as TSU President, Dr. Arnold E. Velasco humbly subjects himself to the challenges of the university. Yet, he is optimistic about accomplishing his goals.

"Ang gagaling ng mga taga TSU. Nakita ko na ang potential eh. Kailangan lang ma-tap ng mga tao. Kailangan magkaisa. Baka wala pang four years, we will be recognized as one of the top 1,000 sustainable universities in the world. Alam kong kaya natin 'yan," he finished.



TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY

Vision

Tarlac State University is envisioned to be a premier University in the Asia Pacific Region.

Mission

Tarlac State University commits to promote and sustain the offering of quality and relevant programs in higher and advanced education ensuring equitable access to education for people empowerment, professional development, and global competitiveness.

Towards this end, TSU shall:

- 1.) Provide high quality instruction through qualified, competent and adequately trained faculty members and support staff.
- 2.) Be a premier research institution by enhancing research undertakings in the fields of technology and sciences and strengthening collaboration with local and international institutions.
- 3.) Be a champion in community development by strengthening partnership with public and private organizations and individuals

Quality Policy

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