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AWARDING CEREMONY SCUAA III

OLYMPICS UNIVERSITY



Photo Credits: Clare Manaloto (SDMU Staff)

TSU returns to SCUAA 3 Olympics podium

The Tarlac State University Firefoxes secured a second runner-up finish after garnering 51 golds at the 2025 State Colleges Universities Athletics Association (SCUAA) Region III Olympics held at the Pampanga State Agricultural University from February 22-28, 2025.

After three consecutive

years of placing third runner-up overall in the regional sporting event, TSU made a significant leap this year, bagging 173 medals, of which 51 are gold, 64 are silver, and 58 are bronze.

Dr. Ligaya Gina S. Salangsang, Sports Development and Management Unit Head, received the award on behalf of the university

during the closing ceremony on February 28.

Meanwhile, the Bulacan State University Gold Gears remains the overall champion with 101 gold medals, followed by the Central Luzon State University Green Cobras with 58 gold medals.

Moreover, gold medalists from the regional

meet will advance to the 2025 National SCUAA Games as representative of Region III this April 2025 in Camiguin Island.

The 2026 SCUAA III Olympics host will be the Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology, as announced during the closing program.

John Michael D. Esteban

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TSU enriches Filipiniana, Tarlaqueñania book collection thru donations

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag

Former National Historical Commission of the Philippines Commissioner and former Center for Tarlaqueño Studies Head Dr. Lino L. Dizon turned over his personal collection of Filipiniana and Tarlaqueñania books to Tarlac State University's Museo-Archivo on February 4, 2025.

With these books he had been collecting since he started as the CTS coordinator in 1987, Dr. Dizon hopes to help future researchers and students who might have been experiencing difficulties in looking for resources and references when tracing Tarlac's roots and history.

National Library of the Philippines Director Cesar Gilbert Adriano graced the book donation, lauding the Museo-Archivo for making room in protecting and popularizing recorded history.

"These original local stories, books, and publications show the diversity of our regents and the lessons we can learn from (them). We at the National Library of the Philippines believe that the collection of Filipiniana books will be beneficial, especially for Tarlac's learning communities, the students, readers,



researchers, patrons, and visitors of the Museo-Archivo. Your academic endeavor to promote and conserve Dr. Lino Dizon's collection will surely contribute to the socially conscious Filipino society," Director Adriano said in his speech.

Presently, Director Adriano seeks to strengthen the National Library's campaign this year to make learning resources widely available to residents of different provinces through a partnership with the Department of Interior and Local Government in increasing the presence of public libraries with

a local history corner in all local government units.

"As a Tarlaqueño, I welcome this proposal by Director Jet Adriano because it can help awaken the interest of our people [in] the importance of history if it is localized, na bawat bayan ay mahalaga kasi bawat bayan ay may kasaysayan. I think 'yun ang kailangang i-work out pa sa aming mga taga Tarlac—a sense of history and sense of place is important para lumago ang pagmamahal sa bayan na nagdudulot ng kasipagan para umunlad ang bawat isa," public historian Dr.

Xiao Chua said in an interview.

Dr. Dizon also mentioned Dr. Chua's efforts in sharing his Filipiniana collection to the Carlos P. Romulo Library in Tarlac and the Museo-Archivo to advance the Tarlaqueños' knowledge of local history.

The Museo-Archivo of TSU under the Office of Library Management and Services is one of the few hubs in the province that houses Filipiniana and Tarlaqueñania references, which are mostly donated.

TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco said Dr. Dizon's recent donation, along with the contributions of Prof. Cesar Baroman and Dr. Agapito A. Castro, will provide a richer experience for the students and the community and make the university strive to become a globally competitive university.

"On behalf of the TSU community, we really appreciate your kind [donation] of [this] collection of books. The donation will have a significant impact not only on our university but also on the lives of our students, our faculty, and researchers," Pres. Velasco said.



Photo Credits: Clare Manaloto (SDMU Staff)

THE TSU DELEGATION DURING THE 2025 SCUAA III OLYMPICS – IN PHOTOS



Twenty new lawyers celebrated their 2024 Bar Examination journey and success during the annual School of Law testimonial dinner at the TSU Hotel in Lucinda Campus last February 7, 2025.

The TSU SOL garnered a 52.63% overall passing rate in the 2024 Bar Exams, dubbed #BarNiJLo, chaired by Supreme Court Associate Justice Mario V. Lopez.

Part of the celebration, themed "Rising Bars: Celebration of New Voices, Bold Features, and the Pursuit of Justice," is an inspirational speech from Atty. Kenneth Glenn Manuel, top six in the November 2019 Bar Examination and a law graduate from the University of Santo Tomas.

The top 10 new TSUian lawyers were also given awards during the testimonial dinner according to their performance in the 2024 Bar.

Moreover, among the 20 Bar passers are Student Affairs and Services Director Atty. Gherold C. Benitez, Office of Innovation and Business Development Director Atty. Jayriz D. Dungca, and College of Arts and Social Sciences faculty member Atty. Ruby Vinluan.

In addition, Atty. Charles Salonga, also from CASS, passed the Bar. He completed his law studies in Pampanga.

TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco graced the event and emphasized in his

TSU SOL celebrates overall performance in 2024 Bar

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



speech the immense role of new lawyers in the legal profession.

"As you practice your legal careers, I encourage you to shape a future that reflects your dreams and full potential. The most respected lawyers are those who infuse their work with enthusiasm, creativity, and responsibility. I have no doubt that you will be the role models for the next generation of legal professionals," Pres. Velasco said.

Atty. Manuel, a Tarlaqueño lawyer

Atty. Manuel, hailing from Bamban, Tarlac, is a CPA lawyer who finished his accountancy degree at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran in 2014 as magna cum laude and earned his juris doctor at UST in 2019 as cum laude.

Sharing his Bar journey, the CPA lawyer said he minimized his social media use during the review. Instead, he created an email address for online communication and asked one specific friend to email him the Bar results.

He also encouraged the new lawyers and other law students present to continue fighting to remain in the legal profession no matter how difficult the situations can get.

"Bakit pinagpipilitan pa rin natin ang sarili natin sa isang practice na tinataboy halos tayo? Because we know that all things worthy and valuable require struggle to obtain. We can always

choose the easy way out, but we always choose the hard way. Because we know that it will be worth it in the end. It is with the story of struggles that success becomes sweeter," Atty. Manuel said.

"Minsan kasi 'yung law school, pinamumukha sa atin na 'di tayo bagay sa law school. May mga magsasabi sa 'tin na ang tanga-tanga natin, ang bobobo natin mag-recite. Ano ba 'tong English na 'to, pang-grade one, 'di ba? Marami tayong feedback na matatanggap tayong gano'n, na parang pinapaalis tayo at 'di tayo katanggap-tanggap sa law school," he added.

Atty. Manuel congratulated the new lawyers and reminded them they are "lawyers for a reason and with a reason," with a career composed of perseverance, purpose, determination, and destiny.

"In our practice of law, we will encounter stagnation in our career choices. We will

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VP Macaraeg seeks to produce 'holistic students' thru internship with Tarlac City Police

Mary Joy B. Manalo

Tarlac State University reinforced its alliance with the Tarlac City Police Station by signing a memorandum of agreement for student internship on February 4, 2025 at the Main AVR.

Under the agreement, the TCPS will serve as a partner training institution for the university's ten colleges, accommodating both virtual and onsite interns or on-the-job trainees.

Pre-selected and qualified students will be deployed to various offices and operational units of the TCPS, allowing them to gain firsthand experience in office operations and management.

In a message, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Agnes M. Macaraeg underscored TSU's holistic approach to education, emphasizing its connection to the discipline upheld by PNP.

"In TSU, we are not just developing the minds of the students. We have already added a framework in our system of education that we wanted to produce a holistic student. With PNP's strong sense of discipline, we want that kind of framework to be instilled among our students," VP Macaraeg said.

"We are not just creating intelligent students but value-oriented individuals," she added.

Echoing this sentiment, Dr. Edwin T. Caoleng, College of Public Administration and Governance dean, highlighted the importance of the partnership for the practical learning of students.

"This partnership will, indeed, help them [students] a lot in terms of applying theories into practice. We are nurturing our students to develop the right values and character, so when they enter the industry, they will have the right attitude, skills,



and character necessary for their future endeavors," Dean Caoleng said.

In response, PLTCOL Rommel M. Santos, TCPS Chief of Police, assured their commitment to TSU.

"Rest assured that we will be observing and following

the mentioned provisions of the MOA and instill the discipline of PNP in the students," he said.

Also present during the ceremonial MOA signing are TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco and Deputy Chief of Police PMAJ Jose L. Natividad Jr.



LGU Moncada awards TSU for historical knowledge contribution

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag

The local government of Moncada recognized Tarlac State University with an award for their continuing partnership in enriching the town's culture and heritage during the Balikbayan Night of the Kamote Festival on February 8, 2025 at the Luis Morales Auditorium.

Through the university's Center for Community and Local Governance Studies and Policy Development (CCLGSPD), TSU has been rendering research and extension activities enveloped in the project titled "Preserving Moncada's Legacy: A Path to 150 Years."

Moncada mayor Estelita Aquino, who pushed for the project's funding, lauded the university for advancing the town folks' knowledge and historical advancements as they celebrate their sesquicentennial (150th) anniversary.

Part of the project is the publication of a book from 1874-2024 to be written by former National Historical Commission of the Philippines Commissioner and former Center for Tarlaqueno Studies Head Dr. Lino L. Dizon.



The book will include traditional landmarks; the lives of the residents who contributed to the town's history; the folks' devotion to St. Raymond Nonatus, the town's patron saint that influenced and shaped the faith of the residents; the "Puto Moncada," a famous delicacy in this town; and the old

infrastructures as symbols of the growth and progress of Moncada. These contents are products of cultural mapping, archival research, cultural identity and branding, and archive digitization efforts of TSU and LGU Moncada.

Moreover, the five-minute audio-visual presentation

about Moncada's brief history, featuring the town's official founding anniversary date based on Dr. Dizon's research, was showcased to the Moncadeños during the event.

This AVP highlights the university's contribution to the town's historical knowledge and cultural growth, including the initially mapped roots and historical continuity that will benefit future generations and researchers alike.

Representing the university during the awarding are CCLGSPD Director Dr. Cynthia Quiambao, CCLGSPD Department Head Prof. Vien Jamaica Samson, Project Head Prof. Bryan Jan Dizon, Dr. Ninez Tulo, Office of Public Affairs Director Prof. Jazzel Llaneli Manabat, and Dr. Dizon.

Former senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV also graced the event as the guest of honor and speaker.



Photo Credits: Asst. Prof. Vien Jamaica Samson

TSU SOL celebrates overall performance in 2024 Bar

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face defeats in rulings that will be handed to us. And we may even question our existence and essence as lawyers. But always remind yourself [that] you are fit to practice law. You are members of the Philippine Bar. And literally, you are living your dreams right now," Atty. Manuel said.

Law studies funded by farmers

Atty. Dungca recalled how he and his mother used to count five and ten peso coins to help cover the professional fee of a lawyer in a legal battle of tenant farmers who were about to be displaced in their barangay. With that, he witnessed how his mother fought for the rights of the people, serving as his inspiration to become a lawyer.

Eventually, after passing the Bar, he learned that the first tuition fee he paid in law school was from the meager contributions of the farmers his mother had been helping.

"I realized that indeed I was a scholar of the people," Atty. Dungca said in his speech.

Furthermore, as one of the dean's listers, SOL Dean Atty. Jose I. Dela Rama, Jr. endorsed Atty. Dungca as a scholar of the Atienza law firm as financial support for his law studies. He was the first scholar of the said firm.

In return, Dean Dela Rama asked Atty. Dungca to promise three things upon entering law school: first is to finish law school, second is to become a lawyer, and third is to give meaning to that



reason.

He also recounted how he patiently waited for the Bar results beside his father's tomb, saying that no matter the results, his father in heaven would be the proudest.

Taking inspiration from 'Bar Boys'

On the other hand, Atty. Czarina Buscayno shared her struggles juggling work as an information officer of the local government of Capas, supporting her family's needs, and attending law school. She also encountered two heartbreaks while preparing for the Bar.

She also read a few lines from the late Ms. Odettle Khan,

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TSU initiates 1st MOVE KATROPA gathering for gender equality promotion

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



Tarlac State University's Office of Gender and Development formed its first set of officers for the MOVE KATROPA (Men Opposed to Violence Against Women Everywhere and Kalalakihang Tapat sa Responsibilidad at Obligasyon sa Pamilya) last February 7, 2025 at the Main AVR.

MOVE KATROPA, a group that advocates a

gender-fair society, will serve as a way for promoting safe spaces within and outside the university.

Moreover, it emphasizes the critical role of men in promoting gender equality in their households and workplace to foster a violence-free community.

This gathering marks the first time that an orientation for male employees

within Tarlac province was conducted as part of the government's move to combat violence against women.

MOVE is under the Interagency Council on Violence Against Women and their Children (IACVAWC). In 2006, MOVE was formed as part of the solution to end the cycle of violence against women, helping determine the role of men in ending VAW

alongside equipping them with knowledge on reproductive health concerns.

Asst. Prof. King David Agreda, Cavite State University's MOVE KATROPA president and the National GAD resource pool of NEDA-CALABARZON, discussed the common gender identities and what the male sector can do to have an inclusive environment for all genders, like a capacity building for SOGIESC and policies on protection and preventing discrimination.

Prof. Agreda, the national chairperson for capacity building training and education of MOVE KATROPA, said that the council has a module that teaches men how to gain financial freedom and financial literacy.

"Ang maganda po sa MOVE KATROPA, mas bibigyan kayo ng pagkakataon

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CPAG's graduate programs awarded with Level IV 'retained' status from AACUP

Mary Joy B. Manalo

The College of Public Administration and Governance graduate programs, Doctor of Public Administration and Master of Public Administration, formally received the certificates for program accreditation with a Level IV "retained" status on February 18, 2025 at the Main AVR.

CPAG is the second college to receive the "retained"

status, the highest level of program accreditation granted by the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACUP), following the College of Education.

In his acceptance speech, CPAG Dean Dr. Edwin T. Caoleng reaffirmed the college's commitment to continuous improvement and innovation in public administration education.

"We remain steadfast in our commitment to fostering the next generation of public service leaders equipped with the skills, knowledge, and ethical foundation to make meaningful contributions to society," Dean Caoleng said.

He also acknowledged the challenges faced by the college during the accreditation process, referencing the inclement weather experienced

during the 4th survey visit (2nd cycle) in October 2024.

"Walang bagyo at walang suspension of classes sa kolehiyong masipag," he added.

According to the summary of ratings presented by Office of Quality Assurance Director Dr. Nino B. Corpuz, the MPA program scored 4.70, 4.90, 4.70, 4.80, and 5.0 in the areas of research, performance of graduates, community services,



linkages, and planning process, respectively, resulting in a grand mean of 4.82.

Meanwhile, the DPA program obtained a grand mean of 4.72, with scores of 4.50 in research, 4.50 in performance of graduates, 4.80 in community services, 4.80 in linkages, and 5.0 in the planning process.

With the results of the program accreditation, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Agnes M. Macaraeg

highlighted the university's dedication to service and excellence.

"At TSU, we mean service and excellence in terms of providing service to you, our dear students, be it in the undergraduate or the graduate program," VP Macaraeg said.

Meanwhile, TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco commended the collaborative efforts of the OQA and the CPAG's local accreditation

task force in strengthening the university's commitment to advancing quality education.

Echoing this sentiment, VP Macaraeg emphasized, "You are a shining example of what good governance is all about, and you serve [as a model] to all your students about what good governance is."

The programs' Level IV "retained" status is valid from November 1, 2024 to October 31, 2029.

PSAU learns from TSU's civil eng'g department best practices

Mary Joy B. Manalo



Delegates from Pampanga State Agricultural University visited Tarlac State University for a benchmarking activity focused on the best practices of the Department of Civil Engineering under the College of Engineering on February 20, 2025 at the Engineering AVR.

PSAU delegates, led by Dr. Madeline R. Solis, College of Engineering and Computer Studies dean, and Dr. Maria Cristina V. David, PSAU-DCE chairperson, learned about

TSU-DCE's faculty, course curriculum, integral courses, laboratory facilities, and testing apparatuses.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Agnes M. Macaraeg welcomed the group and hoped that PSAU and TSU would learn from the said activity.

Moreover, Engr. Neil Andrew I. Meneses, TSU's civil engineering department head, discussed the detailed on-the-job training procedure and guidelines and the department's

correlation course general procedures.

Engr. Meneses also shared the department's conduct of an online in-house review for fourth-year students, which is a part of their correlation course.

The in-house review, funded by the university, provides students with recorded discussions, modules, problem sets, and a mock board examination in preparation for their board examination.

"Dito lang po kami bumisita (sa TSU) kasi nalaman

po namin na mataas ang board exam passing rate ninyo. Maganda po 'yung ginawang in-house review para bago po sila maka-graduate ay kahit papaano ready na po sila," Dr. Solis said.

Furthermore, the PSAU delegation also asked about TSU-DCE's faculty development and research and extension activities.

Following the discussion, they toured the TSU-COE's facilities and laboratories and paid a courtesy visit to TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco.



Tarlac State University's Center for Community and Local Governance Studies and Policy Development partnered with the Ugnayang Pang-Aghamtao, Inc. (UGAT), also known as the Anthropological Association of the Philippines, to advance efforts in preserving cultural legacy and promoting literacy through heritage education.

The partnership, valid until December 2026, was formalized through a memorandum of agreement signed on January 7, 2025 via Zoom meeting.

Under the agreement, UGAT will collaborate with the university and the local government units of Pura and Moncada to provide expertise in anthropological methods. This will support and strengthen the cultural preservation projects of the center through specialized training and seminars.

In his message, TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco underscored the significance of the partnership in maintaining the history and cultural identity to benefit future generations.

Furthermore, Pres. Velasco also committed to fulfilling the duties and responsibilities outlined in the agreement.

Likewise, UGAT President Asst. Prof. Noreen H. Sapalo pledged to actively

support the promotion and safeguarding of Tarlac's rich folklore and cultural traditions.

"This partnership marks an important step towards ensuring the continued vitality and appreciation of our heritage for future generations. This can foster pride, understanding, and respect for a shared and diverse cultural identity," Asst. Prof. Sapalo said in her commitment speech.

One of the primary initiatives of this partnership is the project titled "Education Heritage Management: Preserving the Local Government of Pura's Folklore for Cultural Identity and Literacy Advancement," led by Dr. Ninez B. Tulo, Pura's Folklore project head

The project focuses on preserving Tarlac's intangible cultural heritage through

folklore mapping and integrating culturally relevant reading materials into school curricula to enhance literacy and education in the region.

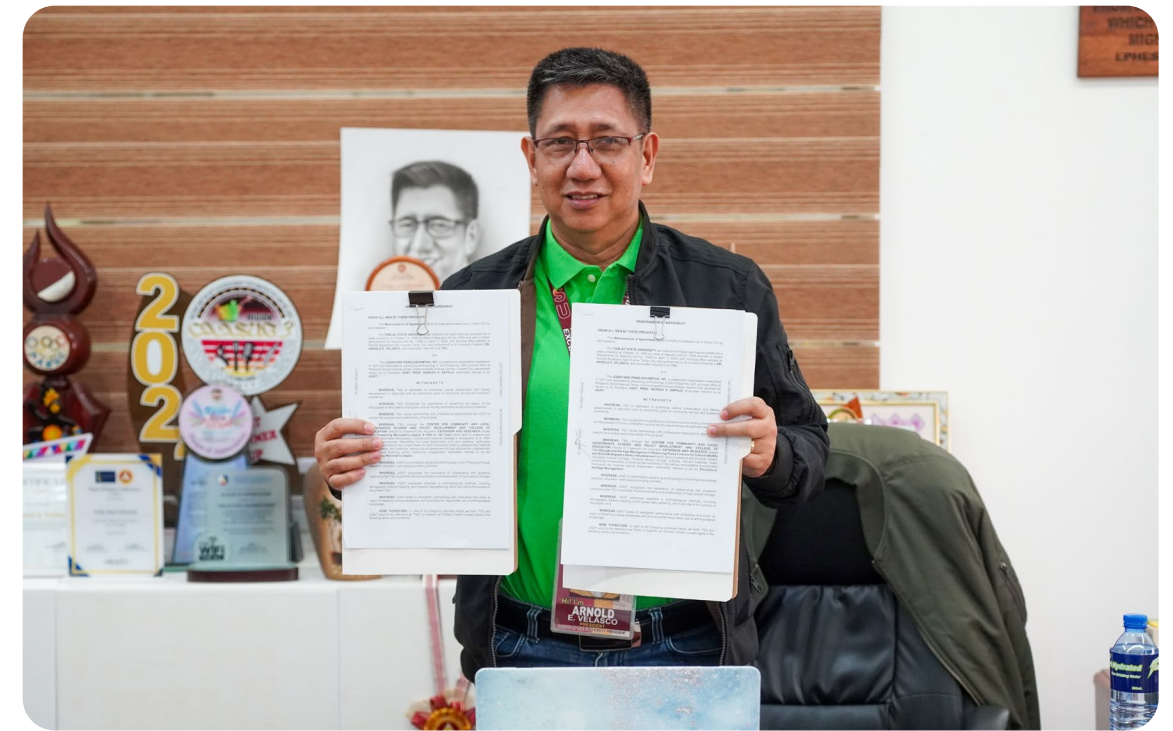
Meanwhile, the project "Preserving Moncada's Heritage: A Path to 150 Years," led by Asst. Prof. Bryan Jan S. Dizon, will involve UGAT's support in refining Moncada's coffee table book, research monographs, and cultural mapping.

According to Asst. Prof. Dizon, UGAT will also contribute as cultural and social science experts in panel discussions and assist in developing instructional materials to promote cultural awareness and branding.

The specialized training and seminars encompass topics in ethnography, folklore mapping, and linguistic data gathering, with some university faculty members and the Pura and Moncada LGUs' personnel as participants.

TSU, UGAT join forces to promote Pura and Moncada's heritage

Mary Joy B. Manalo



EDITORIAL

Did they deliberately opt out?

Tarlac State University is already in its second semester for the academic year 2024-2025, meaning this also marks the second semester of implementing the opt-out mechanism, a provision in the Free Higher Education Law (Republic Act 10931) that permits state and local universities and colleges to collect tuition and other school fees to financially capable students. This university administration implemented this policy smoothly during the first semester. Yet, it gained a spot in the center stage this second semester, prompting the question: did the students deliberately opt out?

Every academic year since the full implementation of RA 10931 at TSU in 2018, more and more hopeful grade 12 students are clamoring to secure a slot at TSU. As the years passed, TSU could no longer accommodate more students under the Free Tuition scheme due to budgetary constraints stemming from national government agencies like CHED and DBM. Hence, the administration of Dr. Arnold E. Velasco elevated to the Board of Regents a supposedly "win-win"

policy to benefit both incoming first years and the financial and facilities aspects of TSU at a minimal cost. Believing in the principle of fairness and equity, the BOR approved the policy, and TSU implemented it for a number of incoming first-year students.

Before the enrollment and payment of tuition and other fees, the university deemed it proper to orient the students and their parents regarding the ins and outs of the opt-out mechanism. At the end of the orientation and before registering them into block sections, each student must read and sign a waiver signaling their agreement to subject themselves to the opt-out policy voluntarily. Further solidifying the legalities of the written document is a mark from the public notary. Inherently, according to the administration, signing the waiver is a manifestation of the student's and their family's capacity and capability to pay the necessary fees to study at TSU.

The first semester of implementation faced neither qualms nor dissensions from the opt-out students or their parents. In fact, an anecdote

shared by the administration is the overwhelming gratitude of parents that their children can still receive quality education at a reasonable tuition. Undeniably, the tuition paid by the opt-out students, particularly from the BS Nursing program, is around 90 to 100% cheaper than its private school counterparts. This is the "win-win" situation the administration is emphasizing.

However, the second semester was filled with turmoil because of the same opt-out mechanism. Student leaders and representatives are keen on pointing out key concerns surrounding the capacity and capability of the opt-out students to pay their tuition, the discrimination faced by the said students, and the "purging" or delisting of students due to non-payment of the tuition and other fees. While these are valid points, why did the students sign the same waiver before enrolling this second semester? Why did the first semester go on without discord while the second semester was filled with complaints? Where did the implementation go wrong this time?

Did the students

deliberately opt out? On the one hand, yes. They submitted to the newly instituted policy when they attended the orientation and accomplished the waiver. Yet, on the other hand, the answer might be no. During the first semester of enrollment, they might have faced the crucial decision that TSU was the only school where they could enroll. There could have been no other options present for them back then. So, does this qualify as deliberately opting out of the Free Tuition scheme?

This scenario is similar to other state and local universities and colleges, as the narrative of TSU implies. Blaming the law is not intentional, but the implementation of RA 10931 limited the slots for admission of first-year students, given the budget provided by the national government to the education sector. While the law is noble and good, it might not serve the totality of aspiring college students. This may be an eye-opener to the would-be elected officials. Maybe, just maybe, this is an open call to regard intently that education as a right, not a privilege.

mother suffer from violence or abuse by his own father.

Concluding the activity is the election of the TSU MOVE KATROPA, wherein Mr. Marlon C. Dela Cruz, Office of Human Resource Development and Management, was elected as its president and took oath on the same day.

The TSU MOVE KATROPA will be called "Movers," initiating societal change.



TSU initiates 1st MOVE KATROPA gathering...

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na maunawaan yung role ninyo sa pamilya to create a harmonious relationship with your partner, between you and your extended family, meron din pong home management, at family planning," Agreda told the participants.

"Yung mga anak ko po babae. Ayaw kong dumating sa

punto na dumating yung time na kapag wala na ako, tapos gagaganunin sila (pertaining to violence). Kaya sabi ko sa inyo, 'yung reason bakit kayo dyan nakaupo, it might be blurry right now, pero in a few moments of your GAD journey, mayroong makikitang rason kung bakit kayo nandiyan," Agreda said, who also experienced and witnessed his

DA-RFO III, TSU sign MOU to establish Central Luzon Agriculture and Fisheries R4DE Network

Mary Joy B. Manalo

The Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office III and Tarlac State University inked a memorandum of understanding to establish the Central Luzon Agriculture and Fisheries Resources, Research and Extension for Development Network (CLAFRREDN) on February 14, 2025 at the Office of the University President.

The establishment of CLAFRREDN is in line with Republic Act No. 8435, or the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) of 1997, seeking to modernize the sector, uplift the lives of farmers and fisherfolk, and enhance productivity and competitiveness toward a food- and nutrition-secure Philippines.

Through the partnership, TSU will serve as a volunteer partner institution for Research for Development and Extension (R4DE), working alongside other state universities and colleges, local government units, private institutions, and



farmers' cooperatives and associations across Central Luzon.

"Ang TSU, being a premiere university in the region, is very active and

capable. Nasa inyo ang expertise sa pagdedevelop ng mga technology, tulad ng solar-powered irrigation at Internet of Things na nagagamit sa precision agriculture. Pwede ninyong

matulungan ang DA para ma-achieve natin ang goal natin na precision agriculture in the next years," Dr. Irene M. Adion, Regional Technical Director for Research, Regulation, and Integrated Laboratory Services, told OPA.

Dr. Adion further highlighted that the collaboration reflects a shared commitment to excellence in education, research, and community development.

The partnership is dedicated exclusively to the network's operations in planning, prioritizing, and implementing key initiatives, including knowledge management, technology incubation, scaling of innovations, co-creation and co-design of technologies, responsive interventions, and policy development.



TSU officials, DBM continue to ensure university's financial, physical aspects

Mary Joy B. Manalo



Tarlac State University key officials met with the Department of Budget and Management for the on-site Full-Time Delivery Unit validation of the university's fiscal year 2024-2025 year-end performance on February 26, 2025 at the Main AVR.

The validation aims to assess TSU's financial and physical accomplishments and monitor the status of ongoing infrastructure projects funded under the FY 2024 General Appropriations Act and the previous years.

Additionally, it serves as an opportunity to identify catch-up measures to achieve the university's targets effectively.

Under the higher education sector, DBM officials, led by Senior Budget and Management Specialist Ms. Thelma Abigail N. Macalino, reviewed the university's reports on board examination performance, graduate employability, student enrollment in priority programs, and accreditation of undergraduate programs.

For advanced

education, they evaluated reports on faculty members pursuing doctorate degrees, the percentage of graduates engaged in research, and the accreditation of graduate programs.

Moreover, research and extension accomplishments and financial outputs were also examined.

Following the assessment, the DBM officials visited the Office of Management and Information Systems and the College of Engineering at the Main Campus. They also

toured the San Isidro Campus to check some infrastructures and equipment.

Present during the validation are TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Agnes M. Macaraeg, Vice President for Administration Atty. Wilmark J. Ramos, Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Extension Dr. Erwin P. Lacanlale, Office of Planning Director Dr. Jay R. Pabustan, and TSU Budget Officer Mr. Jasper A. Yauder.



Hon. Bam Aquino returns to TSU for free higher education consultation

Mary Joy B. Manalo

Former Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV visited Tarlac State University for a consultative meeting with some administrative council members, faculty members, and students on February 12, 2025 at the TSU Gymnasium.

Hon. Aquino, the principal sponsor and co-author of the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act (R.A. 10931), engaged in discussions on higher education policies, student concerns, and the impact of free tertiary education in the Philippines.

Signed into law in 2017, R.A. 10931 grants free tuition and miscellaneous fees for students of state and local universities and colleges and scholarships for those studying at private higher education institutions.

"Noong 2016, kasama



po ang TSU at iba pang mga unibersidad, ay tinuloy-tuloy namin ang konsultasyon kasama ang mga estudyante at guro upang tanungin kung ano ang pwede naming magawa para sa mga estudyante,"



Hon. Aquino said in his message, emphasizing the university's role in shaping the UAQTEA.

"Ngayon po dito sa TSU, higit 50,000 na ang graduate na nakakuha ng tulong dahil sa batas natin," he added.

Representing TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Agnes M. Macaraeg gave credit to Hon. Aquino's contributions to higher education.

"It is with great pride that we acknowledge the significant impact of Hon. Aquino's effort. As the principal sponsor and co-author of the UAQTEA, he has made college education more accessible to our deserving students, a legacy that will continue to benefit

generations to come," VP Macaraeg said.

Furthermore, VP Macaraeg also thanked Hon. Aquino for funding the initial phase of the five-story library building at the San Isidro Campus in 2017 during his term as senator.

TSU Board of Regents member Hon. Dennis Norman T. Go welcomed the "gentleman from Tarlac," who seeks to push more laws benefitting students and Tarlac.

"Malugod po namin kayong tinatanggap dito sa TSU. Welcome home, Sen. Bam. You are with your TSU family, and we are proud of you," Hon. Go said.

The event was also attended by Second District Board Member Christopher "Topey" Delos Reyes.

GAD advocates female reproductive health thru Project PADS, SAS continues love-related engagements with students

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag

The Office of Gender and Development officially launched its Project PADS (Providing Access to Dignity and Sanitation) during the seminar on hygiene and sanitation on February 26, 2025 at the TSU Gymnasium.

Project PADS aims to serve the emergency menstruation needs of women in the university by installing sanitary napkin dispensers at female comfort rooms and medical clinics.

This also seeks to maintain menstrual hygiene, extend care to students without disrupting their studies, and minimize embarrassment during these unexpected situations.

The idea is similar to the Maginhawa community pantry, where students are encouraged only to take what is needed and leave one pad in return to ensure continued



access.

Nurse Cherryl Abila from the Medical Services Unit discussed menstrual hygiene management, the menstrual cycle, and the potential risks of poor menstrual hygiene.

On the other hand, the Student Welfare and Services Unit and the Guidance and Counseling Unit under the Office of Student Affairs and Services conducted a seminar on love, courtship, and relationship titled

“Red light, Green light: Knowing When to Stop or Go for Love” as part of the celebration of SAS days celebration.

Dr. Oliver Cura, Guidance and Counseling unit head, discussed the red flags in relationships, like anger management issues, lack of trust and respect, conflict avoidance, constant jealousy, love bombing, and relationship addiction, which the students must be cautious of before entering a relationship or while they are in a relationship.

Meanwhile, Prof. Maria Sheila G. Medina tackled the green flags in relationships and the importance of having clear and honest communication, mutual respect and trust, emotional connection, shared values, and healthy conflict resolution.

Two love sharers, namely College of Arts and Social Sciences Dean Dr. Aloysius T. Madriaga and Engr. Enalyn Domingo from the College of Engineering shared love advice and a portion of their love story with the attendees.



IDIMSS launches student hub, advocates educational support

Mary Joy B. Manalo

The International, Differently-abled, Indigenous, and Marginalized Student Services (IDIMSS) launched a student hub dedicated to marginalized students for peer support and academic assistance on February 28 at the Student Center in Lucinda Campus.

The student hub will serve as a venue where marginalized students may access free printing, scanning, and photocopying services for academic-related materials and the free use of laptops for research purposes.

“This student hub is a testament to the power of collective action in ensuring that education remains a tool for empowerment, not exclusion,” IDIMSS Unit Head Mr. Allan S. Santos said in his speech.



In a separate interview, Mr. Santos shared that the hub's funding came from the concert-for-a-cause organized by the Inclusive Ability Alliance Differently-abled Student Organization in August 2024.

“The student hub is an initiative of the students (under IDIMSS). 'Yung kinita nila sa concert-for-a-cause ay pinambili nila ng laptop, bond papers, and printer dahil matagal na nila itong pangarap,” Mr. Santos added.



In addition to the concert proceeds, various sponsors provided monetary support and contributed bond paper, monoblock chairs, and a water dispenser.

In his message, TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco emphasized the hub's role in fostering academic growth and collaboration among marginalized students.

“This hub offers a conducive environment where students can work on their educational tasks without limitations...It offers an invaluable service which ensures that no student is left behind due to financial limitations,” Pres. Velasco said.

The student hub, located on the first floor of the Student Center, can cater to a maximum of five persons.

To avail of the services, the marginalized students must present a valid IDIMSS ID and a printing stub from the IDIMSS Student Hub.

“Napakalaking tulong po ng student hub na ito sa aming mga marginalized students. Dati po kasi, marami pong nahihirapan sa amin pagdating sa pagpapa-print

po kahit na free tuition po kami. Ginawa po namin itong inspirasyon para magkaroon ng student hub sa tulong po ng mga sponsors at ng TSU,” Next GEN-IP President Francis Mae I. Valdez told OPA.

“Asahan po ninyo na makakapagtapos po kami ng pag-aaral dahil dito,” Valdez



further said.

To sustain the funding for the hub's free services, students are encouraged to contribute plastic bottles that will be sold every month.

The student hub will be open from Tuesday to Friday,

7:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Joining the launching ceremony and ribbon cutting are Second District Board Member Danilo C. Asiaten, Ms. Lani Juanne Mae C. Puri and Mr. Fercival Yutan from the SSS-GSIS Pensyonado Partylist, former TSU student regent Atty. Gabrielle Kenth Hayashi, Mr. Rustom Patawaran, and Dr. Ruben Borja, Bulacan State University chancellor.

Meanwhile, apart from the student hub, Mr. Santos shared that they are also planning to put up an IP garden at the back of the Student Center building, where crops native to the tribes will be planted.



TSU SOL celebrates overall performance in 2024 Bar

From page 7

who played the role of Justice Hernandez in the 2017 film Bar Boys, which highlights the journey and struggles of law students.

"Buhay, kalayaan, at pag-asa ang nakataya sa bawat batas at bawat artikulong binabasa ninyo o hindi ninyo binabasa. You want to succeed? You sacrifice. Otherwise, you get out of my class," Atty Buscayno read.

"But that was not my favorite line. Rather, the next corresponding lines [are my favorite, which was] when she said 'They believe in you, they even made me believe in you. Ikaw na lang ang hindi bilib sa sarili mo.' When I rewatched it, naisip ko anong karapatan kong hindi maniwala sa sarili ko kung 'yung ibang tao nga naniniwala at nagsusupport sa akin?" Atty. Buscayno furthered.



The oldest first-time Bar taker

Meanwhile, Atty. Caesar Cachero, the oldest first-time Bar taker of TSU and the top seven among the TSU Bar passers, was named the best in political law.

He mentioned that he did not enroll in "fancy" review centers and had no attorney to mentor him. Instead, he relied on his five-year-old reading materials and the strong law school foundation courtesy of the SOL faculty members.

He also learned to deal with the challenges from the professors that helped him to go through the Bar exam.



"Some of you here might remember paano ako pumunta sa mga offices ninyo para mamalimos ng mga reviewers. So, it was just me and my stack of outdated reviewers that were so old, they could have doubled as vintage collection," Atty. Cachero said.

Atty. Cachero said their batch was clinging to the institutional performance of the 22 TSUian passers of the 2023 Hernando Bar exam. This never failed him, and they ended with 20 new TSUian lawyers.

"I will be the first to admit; the 20 passers [do] not mean exactly that we are to declare, not merely to declare, that we are the best. Not yet. But let me tell you something; that '20' is a statement; 20 is the answer. [This eradicates the point] that only elite schools can produce high numbers of Bar passers. It was the answer that led those of us who have been asked for so many [times], 'May napapasa ba talaga ang TSU?' Cachero said.



IN PHOTOS: HON. BAM AQUINO'S CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH TSU OFFICIALS AND STUDENTS






TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY LICENSED TSUIAN ENGINEERS!

FEBRUARY 2025 MECHANICAL ENGINEER LICENSURE EXAMINATION

FIRST-TIME TAKERS	54.55%
INSTITUTIONAL PASSING RATE	53.52%
NATIONAL PASSING RATE	48.91%

THE TSU COMMUNITY IS VERY PROUD OF YOU!




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TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY LICENSED TSUIAN MASTER PLUMBERS!
FEBRUARY 2025 MASTER PLUMBERS LICENSURE EXAMINATION

FIRST-TIME TAKERS

53.57%

INSTITUTIONAL PASSING RATE

54.55%

NATIONAL PASSING RATE

44.17%

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TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY

Vision

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

Mission

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

Core Values

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

Quality Policy

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