



Dayon Kamo! MSU-Gensan welcomes back students in **Opening Salvo**

Jaydee G. Paid, MA

For the past two years, the call for the continuity of learning amid the pandemic has been a tough row to hoe. The sudden shift from traditional to blended learning required great adjustments-additional training for the instructors and students to maneuver distance learning, technical and connectivity issues, and challenges to self-motivation and discipline to name a few. The once familiar splendor inside the academic halls of MSU was replaced by encrusting dust, occupied by hollowness, and deafened by silence.

The day of September 12, 2022 marked the answer to the resolute prayers of the MSUans for in-person classes to finally transpire. With the slight liberation from the shackles of health restrictions brought by the pandemic, the MSU administration finally opened the gates and welcomed its constituents to the Kalinaw! Dayon Kamo: First Day of Class Opening Salvo. Each one was greeted by the erected pasandalan waving and pointing towards the Y Building, where in its hind, a cavalcade of festivals awaited.

The celebration commenced with the nine units of MSU—the Reapers (CoA), the Tycoons (CBA&A), the Mentors (CoEd), the ASTEEGs (CoE), the Anglers (CoF), the Wizards (CNSM), the Vanguards (CSSH), the Legends (SHS), and College of Medicine (CoM)— rendezvousing in their respective buildings and vicinities for the Pag Abi-Abi: The Simultaneous Opening Salvo. MSUans strutting their attires and costumes, smiles plastered on their faces, enjoyed the prepared activities to acquaint everyone with their college/ department: the administrators, faculty and staff, clubs and organizations, among others.

The columns of the gymnasium went steadier with every cheer and yell from the students as they started to flock for the Panagabot: The Welcome Jam. The cheers that once gave life to every event held in the campus were once again heard. Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Mishell D. Lawas opened the program by expressing her pleasure for the return of in-person classes and by welcoming back the students to their home. She also reminded everyone to take heed of the lessons learned in the span of the pandemic and how it challenged our education. Also, Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA took the opportunity to introduce the University officials and administrative heads who were the brains and brawns behind the successful and efficient learning experience of the students. The event took place along with various activities and games prepared by the Office of Student Affairs and Services (OSAS), spearheaded by its Director, Prof. Rhumer S. Lañojan, andthe Student Supreme Council (SSC), led by Pres. John Michael Macaya. The following were the winners of the activities for the Opening Salvo: **Best College Opening Salvo**

Champion- College of Social Sciences and

Humanities

1st Runner-up- College of Business Administration and Accountancy 2nd Runner-up- College of Education

TikTok Dance Challenge:

Champion- College of Business Administration and Accountancy 1st Runner-up- Senior High School

Department

2nd Runner-up- College of Education

Best College Shirt and Creative Denim:

Champion- College of Education 1st Runner-up- Senior High School Department

2nd Runner-up- College of

Fisheries

Special Citations:

Best College Cheer- College of Social Sciences and Humanities

Most Organized College- Senior High School Department

Most Participative College - College of Business Administration and Accountancy Most Creative College - College of Fisheries

Most Energetic College - College of

Agriculture

The unending MSUan energy put the afternoon heat in the shade. In the spirit of camaraderie, individual and in groups, the students trekked the pathways to visit college buildings and organization and club booths for the Paglibot ug Pagsinati: The University Campus Tour and Pakiglambigit: Student Organization Fair. Pastil and ice cream were also served for everyone to enjoy as sponsored by the Alumni Relations Office, Administrative Staff and Support Services Office (ASSSA), Faculty Union, MSU Multi-Pupose Cooperative, Institute for Peace and Development in Mindanao, and other campus units.

Eventually, life in MSU will be in full view-students filling every corner of the campus, jeepneys waiting to be filled, habalhabal racing with dust storms. While full implementation of in-person is still en route and on some days, teachers and students will have to face their phones and laptops for online classes, but the Kalinaw! Dayon Kamo: First Day of Class Opening Salvo is already a manifestation that MSU has triumphantly survived what seemed to be the most challenging years since its operation. The pandemic may have challenged MSUans' academic journey but undeniably, it has become a portal for a more

responsive and resilient MSU.





CMO Asia recognizes MSU-Gensan as Asia's Outstanding Academic Institution

Monlouie M. Sorzano, MA

Mindanao State University – General Santos takes pride in its most recent recognition being awarded as "Asia's Outstanding Academic Institution" by the CMO Asia on August 17, 2022 at Pan Pacific, Singapore. The award was received by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Mishell D. Lawas on behalf of the administration.

CMO Asia Awards is a premium forum brand bringing elite marketers. custodians. advertising and creative honchos together under one roof. As an invitation-only event taking place behind closed doors, the program offers top marketing professionals, agencies and consultants an intimate environment for recognizing and rewarding excellence. Mindanao State University - General Santos was recognized for its excellence as an academic institution after satisfactorily meeting the criteria set by CMO Asia. The criteria benchmarked were: (1) Educational Achievement, (2) Placements, (3) Leadership, (4) Class Infrastructure, (5) Student Impact, and (6) Future Orientation.

To honor the University for the said recognition, the 20th Sangguniang Panlungsod awarded a Certificate of Commendation during its 4th Regular Session held on August 23, 2022. The certificate was likewise received by Dr. Lawas.

These recognitions given to MSU-Gensan serve as testaments to its strong commitment to excellence. As a University with the special mandate of producing competent human resources for the development of Southern Mindanao and helping improve the living conditions of Muslims and Indigenous People, it has consistently maintained excellence in its core functions of instruction, research, extension, and production to benefit all of its stakeholders. Through the years, MSU-Gensan has become one of the universities in Mindanao to have produced a number of board topnotchers and passers in the fields of Agriculture, Fisheries, Engineering, Accountancy, and Education. It has also partnered with local, national and international organizations and universities for mutual development and collaboration. To further upscale its services and meet the demands of the changing landscape of education, the University has also laid down the foundation towards becoming a SMART University by investing in technology and talent necessary for Industry 4.0. These are but a few of the commitments of MSU-Gensan in improving the quality of instruction, elevating research and extension engagements, strengthening partnerships, and upscaling development and innovation initiatives. Truly, MSU-Gensan continues excellence every step of the way.



Taking the lead: Aragasi installed as MSU-Gensan's Acting Chancellor

John Jay L. Morido

Through the BOR order no. 2, s. 2022, JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA, former Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance (VCAF) was designated as the Acting Chancellor of Mindanao State University, Gen. Santos City last February 28. This was following his appointment as the OIC Chancellor pursuant to the Office of the MSU System President Special Order no.

029-OP, s. 2022 dated January 10.

Acting Chancellor Aragasi is a native of Lumbabayabao, Lanao Del Sur, Philippines. He finished his BS in International Relations at Mindanao State University, Main Campus, Marawi City as an Academic Awardee, and his Master's in Public Administration at the same university last 1997. He also completed his Bachelor of Laws last 2002 and is now a full-fledged Juris Doctor. He served as Division of Student Affairs Director (2016-2018), University Secretary, and of the Board of Regents (2018-2020) of MSU System and worked as an Assistant Regional Director and accordingly Regional Director of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (previously TELOF/CICT) in the Regional Office XI.

In his eight months of service, Acting Chancellor Aragasi continued the legacy of the past Chancellors in the establishment of the College of Medicine with the support and initiative of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) headed by Chair J. Prospero De Vera and the Faculty Regent, Dr. Mario J. Aguja. Supplementation of Educational Empowerment for Dadiangas Doctors, Clinical Simulation Laboratory Equipment for the Doctor of Medicine Program, and Optimizing Simulation-Based Education, Training, Collaboration and Research – A Focused Study on Plastinated Cadavers and Simulation-Based Teaching Learning Activities were the sponsored projects to support the newly instituted college.

With his leadership, the MSU-General Santos was recalibrated by synergizing the student body, campus officials, and faculty and staff through dialogues to hear the immediate concerns of the university constituents. Also, he led the conduct and success of the 43rd Commencement Exercises for a total of 3, 111 students from Academic Years 2019-2020, 2020-2021, and 2021-

2022 last July 14.

While gearing towards a SMART and PEACE University, Acting Chancellor Aragasi fostered and strengthened the Faculty Development Programs, offering, revival, and preparation of several courses while maintaining strong partnerships with various Government and Non-Government agencies inside and

outside the Philippines.

His service to the university can be summed up in his words during the giving of the historical marker from the Supreme Court of the Philippines, "If we want things to be better, despite being limited, we must be willing to collaborate, serve and maximize our potential. We need to move forward and be equipped for the challenges of the modern age. The Mindanao State University, Gen. Santos will always support the good plans and programs of the government and serve for the benefit of our fellow countrymen. Semper ad Meliora, always towards better!"

"A dream come true": MSU-Gensan launches College of Medicine

Eunece V. Naive & Monlouie M. Sorzano, MA

Mindanao State University – General Santos held its Ceremonial Launching of the College of Medicine on January 31, 2022 at the Audio-Visual Room, Graduate School.

"It is a dream come true," Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi remarked in his welcome address. "This is not only beneficial to a very small sector, but MSU-Gensan College of Medicine is designed and programmed to serve our marginalized sectors in the society." He also added that what made the College of Medicine a reality is the concerted efforts of all the officials of the MSU System, MSU-Gensan, national, district, and local government units and all other stakeholders who worked tirelessly in the creation of the College. Thereafter, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Mishell D. Lawas recited the contents of the BOR Resolution for MSU-Gensan to establish its own independent College of Medicine and the CHED Resolution granting its authority to operate. Following this, VCAA Lawas proudly presented the College of Medicine's administration and its esteemed faculty members

In his message of commitment, the Dean of College of Medicine Dr. Edwin A. Alconcel noted that the ceremonial opening is a milestone not only for the College and Mindanao State University. but also for the entire Region XII. He also looks forward as this will be the start of "new learnings and new beginnings." "The establishment of MSU-Gensan College of Medicine will be the start of an era of excellence and advancement that will leave its mark in the campus and beyond," Dean Alconcel further remarked.

MSU-System President Dr. Habib W. Macaayong graced the event and emphasized the significance of the establishment of the College. "This is indeed a blessing to establish a College of Medicine here in General Santos City since we are the first in the region." He also thanked the medical practitioners in Gensan for accepting the challenge of being the pioneering faculty members of the College of Medicine. The President ended his talk leaving. a challenge to MSU-Gensan, "I would like to challenge also the MSU-Gensan administration to keep this College of Medicine well and I encourage also the faculty members to help the MSU-Gensan administration in keeping the College of Medicine very well."

Following the cultural presentation of MSU Kabpapagariya Ensemble, a message of support was delivered by Hon. Shirlyn L. Banas-Nograles, South Cotabato 1st District Representative. "Today, we have proven to our ancestors, our families, our friends, our neighbors and the rest of the world that the city of General Santos is more than just capable of hosting a medical institution that will determine the best minds into becoming doctors someday and, of course, at the cheapest cost." Hon. Banas-Nograles who pushed to legislate acts in support of the autonomy and project funding of the College also dedicated a part of her speech to the former Chancellor Dr. Anshari P. Ali who shared the common desire with her to locally produce its very own doctors. At the end, she assured everyone that she will remain deeply committed to supporting the programs and projects of MSU-Gensan.





Dr. Michael Tee of the College of Medicine,

his talk on Institutional Development and

novation Grants (IDIG) Proposal and

University of the Philippines-Manila, delivers

College of Medicine holds first-ever orientation for students and parents

Eunece V. Naive & Monlouie M. Sorzano, MA

The MSU-General Santos College of Medicine held its first-ever Orientation for Students and Parents on February 20, 2022 at the AVR, Graduate School. The orientation was conducted to ensure that the pioneering medical students, along with their parents, are given the necessary information as they enter the program and the University.

In her welcome address, Vice

Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Mishell D. Lawas emphasized that MSU-General Santos is steadfast in its commitment to ensure continuity of learning despite the challenges brought by the pandemic. It is manifested by the efforts and hard work of the faculty by adopting the flexible learning approach and exploring online learning modalities and platforms to connect with students without face-to-face interaction. This is equally reciprocated by the same energy and unwavering interest of the students with their teachers to continue the delivery of instruction and learning. The pandemic may continue but Dr. Lawas assured the students and the parents that nothing will stop MSU-General Santos from providing equal opportunities and quality education to Muslims, Indigenous

People, and deserving students. "My challenge to the College of Medicine is to create your brand - have a brand that may not be seen from other Universities. A brand of excellence and discipline. Create a proactive students' organization so it can have a strong partnership with the management. I am very happy for all the students, particularly those from the BARMM, and that the management is very supportive of you entering the program. To the pioneering batch, I challenge you to become

the next board topnotchers because Gensan is the home of the champions and I can say that the College of Medicine will excel because you are the champions," Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Argasi said in his message.

Dr. Usmaima Naga-Usman, COM Secretary, introduced the twenty (20) full-time faculty members, sixteen (16) lectures, two (2) speakers for Special Topics, and five (5) administrative staff. She also introduced all the fifty-three (53) pioneering students together with their parents.

Dr. Edwin Alconcel, COM Dean, presented the overview of the College of Medicine. In his presentation, he showed how and why the University pushed for the creation of the COM and how it was approved by the MSU System Board of Regents and the CHED to operate. He also discussed its mission, vision, and goals as the first Medical School in the region. Dr. Analyza DM. Galia, COM Associate Dean, presented the Medical Curriculum Program of Study; Dr. Vivien Leigh P. Mina, COM Assistant Secretary, presented the Admission, Dismissal and Retention Policies; and, Dr. Rizalito Golingay, Chairperson of Clinical Science, presented the Internship and Academic Policies.
Prof. Sheila J. Loable, Vice

Chancellor for Planning and Development, closed the event by commending the parents for attending and showing full support to their children. She also extended her gratitude to the COM faculty and staff for organizing the event. Further, she expressed her thanks to the University Officials for attending despite their busy schedules. Finally, she congratulated the pioneering students of the medical program of the University and encouraged them to excel in their studies.

College of Medicine undergoes mentoring with CHED

Eunece V. Naive

Mindanao State University – General Santos College of Medicine undergoes a mentoring session under the auspices of the Commission on Higher Education on March 17, 2022 at AVR, Graduate School. Invited faculty members of the University of the Philippines College of Medicine delivered the said mentoring.

The mentoring session was conducted for the recommendation of better-quality equipment for both basic science and clinical subjects. Discussions on Institutional Development and Innovation Grants (IDIG) Proposal and Equipment were tackled by Dr. Michael Tee, Dr. Charlotte Chiong and Dr. Corlalie Therese

Demacali while SEEDD Project and Equipment were discussed by VCAF, VCPD, College of Medicine Management Committee, Bids and Awards Committee and Procurement Committee and Procurement Committee and Proposal to the Commission on Higher Education and was granted a P25M funding under the SEEDD Project. The College of Medicine is the pioneer medical school in Region XII. It was envisioned to provide good medical education and training particularly for the

less privileged but deserving students

and to help cater the increasing needs of medically underserved areas in the region.

COM holds 1st Pinning Ceremony, Oath Taking of Officers

Eunece V. Naive & Jorgelyn C. Rivera, LPT

Mindanao State University – General Santos College of Medicine conducted its 1st Pinning Ceremony and Oath Taking of Officers on August 7, 2022, at the Audio-Visual Room, School of Graduate Studies. The donning of the emblems signifies the celebration of the official entry to the medical profession of the pioneering medical students of the College of Medicine.

In her welcome address, Dr. Analyza Galia-Gabuay extended her gratitude to the parents and guests on behalf of the University. She then stated that the event represents several milestones and it is an opportunity to welcome the students into the medical profession.

Dr. Karl Ivan D. Igrobay, MPH, guest speaker of the ceremony, congratulated the students completing the first year of medical school. He stressed that although it a tremendous accomplishment. it is nothing compared to what will come three years from now. also hopes that they continue the charge for transforming health care becomina transformational medical practitioners who will uphold the values expected of physicians.

"So, if I will...ask again, 'Why I want to be a doctor?' Maybe, my answer will be to serve the underserved...I challenge the students – the pioneer batch, the future of the MSU College of Medicine, and the future of the Philippine Medical Team—to become the very best...," he emphasized.

He also added that being the best is not just topping the exam or bagging awards, but it's all about having a sense of fulfillment in their work and knowing that they have given their all so that one day they will save lives, help others especially the underprivileged and serve all humanity.

"I guess my classmate would agree that if you ask us when the year started where we would be today, we wouldn't think we would be here in white uniform braving the pandemic about to be pinned as the pioneeringmedical students of the first medical school in SOCCSKSARGEN. This is history-in-themaking and we are very proud to be part

of this momentous event," said Ms. Ikha Rhea C. Estrella, a freshmen medical student as she delivered a speech on behalf of her classmates. Estrella is hopeful about the path she and her fellow students are taking but also understood that it's going to take some hard work and commitment to lifelong learning.

"To Batch Ladiyawan – the leaders among leaders, we are just 52 seeds...just starting to bud but we will grow trunks, have leaves, bear fruits, and by the end of our journey here in Mindanao State University – General Santos City College of Medicine, the people of Mindanao will have a full forest of physicians cultivated in Mindanao, serving the people of Mindanao, and bearing the banner of doctors of peace for Mindanao. Sa mga kwapa ko Iskolar at Doktor para sa Bayan, ito palang ang simula kaya padayon!" Estrella added as the crowd roared in response.

Thereafter, parents, siblings, and other loved ones clapped and cheered as the future physicians crossed the stage for the pinning ceremony which was led by COM Dean, Dr. Edwin Alconcel the University administration. faculty force of esteemed medical doctors were also present witness the ceremonial pinning.

Moreover, Chancellor, JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA gave an inspirational message and recognition to the Society of Medical Students (SOMeds). Chancellor Aragasi emphasized in his speech that he is looking forward to the day when MSU-Gensan will produce medical practitioners that will cater to the health care needs of medically underserved and improve the living areas conditions of the people in Mindanao.

This was followed by the oath-taking of the College of Medicine officers administered by Atty. Hanna Tunisia F. Usman.

The event also included remarks from the Vice Chancellor

remarks from the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Mishell D. Lawas, the Director of Office of Student Affairs and Services, Prof. Rhumer S. Lañojan, the University Physician Dr. Usmaima Lily F. Usman-Naga.



Volume IV - Issue No.1 EXCELLENCE 07

The excellence reigns on: Agenda for President Mapupuno's Administration

John Anndrew S. Tenecio

"What is clear is that the university is no longer limited to the function or duty of producing graduates or to serve as stepping stones to our niche position in the church as in the medieval period and in subsequent ages in the government or the various professions."

President Basari D. Mapupuno

As the next President of the Mindanao State University System, President Basari D. Mapupuno highlighted his tenpoint agenda for his administration during his installation as the 8th Regular System President during his Investiture Ceremony held at the International Convention Centre, MSU- Marawi Campus last June 8, 2022, which will fully utilize the potential of the MSU System. He believes that in order to achieve a more prosperous and progressive governance, it is vital to build on the legacy left by the prior administrations and to make use of its previous accomplishmentsrecognizing that the past serves as a precursor, a repository of insights, and a record of achievements from which the current leadership can draw, build, or benefit.

On top of President Mapupuno's priority, his administration will make more substantial developments in the direction of academic excellence which promise to ensure an encouraging and supportive environment that fosters effective teaching, learning, and innovation, with the ultimate goal of maximizing students' potential as individuals. For this to happen, he urges faculty members to pursue graduate education at prestigious domestic and international universities to create a dynamic, creative, and contemporary teaching force.

The ability of education to adapt to changing trends, especially the requirement that curricula be regularly monitored and updated to keep up with the dynamism and professional demands of the nation and service areas of MSU campuses, as well as to keep these suited to the expectations of the global economy, was also part of the agenda. In addition, the new administration will continue to identify and overcome obstacles that impede the advancement of a multidisciplinary perspective scholarship, curricular innovation, and the provision of proper incentives for such academic endeavors, placing a high value on quality control throughobtaining higher levels of accreditation.

For research, extension, and development, President Mapupuno hopes that the MSU System will be a tool for change in societal development regarding scientific, economic, environmental, and peace initiatives. These will give research new impetus to produce further information, introduce innovations, accelerate publication, and encourage the development of creative and innovative communities that will provide local business owners

opportunities. By doing this, the administration of President Mapupuno would work to extend technopreneur services to local communities to improve livelihood opportunities and skill sets to reduce poverty and promote food security, independence, and self-reliance.

On the other note, pursuing to become the National Peace University, President Mapupuno will devote his presidency to serving as a beacon for the advancement of peace advocacy and sustainability that seeks to increase collaboration and partnership with different stakeholder groups in developing and peacebuilding executing programs, developments, value addition, and studies. The MSU System has developed a unique course called the Fundamentals of Peace Education that integrates a peace lens into the curriculum and activities of the system.

The harnessing of the MSU system, a focus on comparative advantages, and the rationalization of academic curricula are also among President Mapupuno's ten-point agenda. This will be addressed by reviewing the MSU Charter, actively advocating for the change that is required. codifying all BOR Resolutions, harmonizing management structure, developing joint programs and activities, streamlining organizations, eliminating duplicate office roles and functions, clearing the distinction between the roles of System and Marawi Campus officials, and creating manuals and handbooks on research, extension, and instruction for system-wide use. By emphasizing comparative advantage and reaffirming each campus's context-driven unique missions, the new administration

will effectively manage its component campuses' initiatives, programs, and activities and increase each one's vibrancy. It is believed that rationalizing academic programs offered by the campuses guided by their respective mandates will keep within the bounds of the MSU System mandate by leveraging the collective strength of institutions to benefit the states and the communities served by the System as well as the focus onintellectual growth coordinating

IND IDICIOTATE

the work of campuses to improve access, control costs, and

Regarding cultural preservation, President Mapupuno's administration seeks to create a showcase for the rich and distinctive cultural heritage of the people of Mindanao and Bangsamoro and to take the lead in celebrating it. It will also support projects and programs that promote and preserve native cultural heritage and collaborate with national and international organizations on its preservation and promotion projects. President Mapupuno nevertheless hopes to actively involve communities as the key players in preserving cultural heritage, instill pride in the native cultural heritage in present and future generations, and support the maintenance of

cherished traditions that can be assimilated.

Lastly, the current administration plans to distribute and employ the System's buildings, plants, and facilities to provide the most benefit in pursuing its purpose. This includes infrastructure development and utilization as well as the implementation of the land use plan. Taking advantage of cordial ties or collaborations established with different foundations for additional infrastructure initiatives, the renovation of dilapidated structures, and the expansion of IT modernization and upgrading of current technology, laboratories, and facilities of each campus and unit shall also be observed. The new administration will also settle land disputes and ensure the reclamation of MSU System lands by acquiring title to all real estate in every campus and taking physical control of it. To realize the LUDIP Plan, which may be improved to reflect the current requirements and







IPDM, UNDP spearhead workshop on University Peace

Najifah P. Macaraya, JD

The MSU-GSC Institute for Peace and Development (IPDM), in partnership with United Nations Development Program (UNDP), facilitated the conduct of the Formulation of University Peace Education Themes and Outcomes cum Workshop on Integrating Peace Lens in Higher Education on March 16-17, 2022.

The two-day activity participated by the different deans and chairpersons of the university. UNESCO Peace Educator Awardee Regent Mario J. Aguja commenced the workshop by stimulating the participants to contemplate with the question- "As a National Peace University, where are we now?" This reminded the significance of the integration of peace education the higher education curriculum. It was then followed by the following workshops: (1) Mapping the University Peace Education Themes and Topics; (2) Articulating Learning Objectives with Peace Lens and PVE Embedding; and (3) Designing Peace Lesson Exemplars. Director of IPDM Dr. Jovar Pantao, Peace Action Coordinator Monsour Pelmin, and Peace Action Coordinator Najifah Macaraya facilitated the aforesaid workshops.

CHED Chairperson De Vera, MSU-System President Mapupuno pay visit to MSU-Gensan

Eunece V. Naive & Monlouie M. Sorzano, MA

Mindanao State University – General Santos welcomed Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Chairman Dr. J. Prospero E. De Vera III and newly appointed MSU-System President Atty. Basari D. Mapupuno during their courtesy visit on March 17, 2022 at the Audio-Visual Room, School of Graduate Studies. The courtesy visit was in time with the CHED Mentoring Session of the College of Medicine. University constituents, led by Acting Chancellor Usman D. Aragasi, JD,

MPA, warmly received the esteemed guests. In his message, Chairman De Vera congratulated MSU-Gensan for the establishment of the College of Medicine and stressed the importance of education as the path leader of the youth. "Like what I always said, the best investment a country can have is to invest in its young people. Every peso given to higher education is not an expense; it is an investment in the future," Chairman De Vera remarked. He also assured the students that they will have the best medical education, "I want to be proud of the schools that have been allowed to have a medical school...because part of that commitment is the return of service that they will have to do as scholars of the government."

On the other hand, MSU-System President Mapupuno expressed his gratitude and admiration to MSU-Gensan for continuously working,

on the goal to produce doctors especially those who are members of the cultural minorities in Mindanao. "Enshrined in the charter of MSU is the creation of a College of Medicine that preserves our commitment. This is a unique mandate for MSU compared to other universities and colleges. For this, I am extending my deep appreciation to the lateChancellorAliforchampioningthecreation of MSU-General Santos College of Medicine. I also extend the same to the men and women who work tirelessly behind the scenes and are still working up to this day," he added. After the ceremonial messages,

Chairman De Vera administered the taking of President Mapupuno Chancellor Thereafter, President Mapupuno attended the Oathtaking Ceremony of the new MSU-Gensan Faculty Union officers and graced the Formulation of University Peace Education Themes and Outcomes cum Workshop on Integrating Peace Lens in Higher Education hosted by the University's Institute for Peace and Development in Mindanao. President Mapupuno and Chancellor Aragasi also led the signing of the Wall of Commitment of the said Finally, President Mapupuno workshop. visited the MSU Fatima campus and toured around the different offices of the University. MSU-Gensan is the first campus visited by President Mapupuno after assuming office.



"Understanding Violent Extremism and Prospects of Building Community Resilience through Education" and "Hybridity and Liberal Peacebuilding" were presented by UNDP Program Analyst Judith De Guzma and MSU-GSC Research Director Dr. Jovanie Espesor respectively.

The activity ended with the presentation of outputs from participatory colleges and universities which were then evaluated and assessed by the facilitators and other participants.

litated the aforesaid The two-day workshop was Moreover, lectures on deemed momentous as the newly appointed

President of MSU System, Atty. Basari Mapupuno, together with the Acting Chancellor of MSU-GSC Usman Aragasi, J.D., joined the signing of the Wall of Commitment to Peace Education. The MSU administration, through the expression of President Mapupuno expressed in his support for the advocacy for peace, is gradually achieving its aim to strengthen the implementation of peace education in the University.

The Peace Education
Domain of the IPDM looks forward for
the college deans and department
chairpersons to echo the said activity.

Volume IV - Issue No.1 EXCELLENCE 09

MSU-Gensan hosts first-ever Min Peace Education Conference

Eunece V. Naive & John Anndrew S. Tenecio

Mindanao State University General Santos City, through Commission on Higher Education Institutional Development Innovation Grant (CHED-IDIG) Project and Institute for Peace and Development in Mindanao (IPDM) and in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with support from European Union, and the GSID Alumni Association of Nagoya University, hosted the first-ever Mindanao Peace Education Conference (MPEC) on August 7-10, 2022 at Greenleaf Hotel Gensan, General Santos City,

The conference convened academic scientists, researchers, peace advocates, educators, and practitioners from more than thirty (30) universities, colleges, and institutions from Regions X, XI, XII, and BARMM to discuss the significant role of education in peacebuilding. Specifically, the conference was about peace education and aims to establish a network of peace educators.

During the opening program on August 7, Acting Chancellor, Usman D. Aragasi, MPA gave his welcome remarks emphasizing his full support for the efforts of the University as it gears toward becoming the National Peace University. Also, he expressed his delight that the gathering of peace educators, through MPEC, assures their commitment in peacebuilding in Mindanao.

Moreover, Prof. Mario "Mayong" J. Aguja, the project leader of the 2021 CHED-IDIG Peace Project and the Faculty Regent of the MSU System, accentuated during his statement of purpose the objective of the event. He mentioned that the conference aimed to bring together peace educators in Mindanao to discuss significant matters that highly affect peace education, and to give everyone an opportunity to build networks, collaborate, and draw inspiration from the stories of different communities. Prof. Mayong believed that the event celebrates the achievements of peace advocates over the past years regarding peace and peace education. "We cannot just do it as an institution of higher learning and this is the first time to bring everybody together to learn from each other what we are doing, to share our victories and pains as Mindanaoans, as we all dream to bring peace in Mindanao. Sabi nga nila, karamihan sa atin ay dito na ipinanganak at dito na rin mamamahinga sa Mindanao. And therefore, it is a challenge for us how we will change the narratives of Mindanao from that of biases and prejudices to that of conflict, to that of peace and development in our area," said Prof. Mayong.

The conference was also graced by the presence of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Chairperson, Hon. J. Prospero E. De Vera III, who gave a keynote speech focusing on the importance of education in attaining peace in Mindanao. During his speech, Hon. De Vera shared his five thoughts related to peace education. First, peace must have a historical perspective.

Accordingly, "peace advocates must view peace education from a historical perspective because in peace education and in the



discussion of peace, historical distortions are all over the place. We must correctly articulate the role of colonialism, the role of subjugation, and the historical marginalization in Mindanao," said Hon. De Vera.

Second, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) should be more involved in the discussion of peace education since HEIs have the means to do and undertake research on education and extension programs. It is the responsibility of the HEIs to undertake research to correct historical distortion, embed it in their teaching function, and put it as part of the general education curriculum. The discussions on peace must necessarily rectify distortion in historical interpretation, especially now that fake news is rampant and it is uncomplicated agitate and anger people. Third, peace is continuously evolving concept. Fourth, there is a great impetus to make it a lifestyle.

And last, the promotion of peace education rectifies historical injustice and therefore should have a sense of urgency. "While at some point, we tell everyone to be patient because it is so difficult to untangle historical events, there is also a sense of urgency. We should not be complacent when we talk

Moreover, Hon. Lorelie G. Pacquiao, the City Mayor of the General Santos City, as represented by Hon. Dominador S. Lagare, Jr., and Mr. Winston Almer Camarinas, the Head of United Development Programme— Cotabato Field Office were also present during the event extending their full support.

On the second and third day, Dr. Loreta N. Castillo of the Miriam College, Prof. Carl O. Dellomos and Dr. Serafin A. Arviola Jr. of Philippine Normal University, and Prof. Rufa Cagoco-Guiam, a retired faculty of MSU-GSC were invited to discuss meaningful topics about the Importance of the Global Perspective in Peace Education, Embedding of Global Citizenship Education in Peace Education, Essentials, Trends, and Trajectories of Global Citizenship Education, and Peace Education Mindanao's Fragile Contexts.

Aside from the invited speakers, the participants were given the opportunity to present their respective research papers during the parallel sessions focusing on four (4) major topics: Community Resilience and Peace Engagement, Education for Peace and Community Resilience, Interfaith Dialogue and Conflict Resolution, and Approaches and Strategies in Peace Promotion.

The universities, colleges, and institutions that participated during the

Technology, Cotabato State University, South Cotabato State College, Notre Dame of Marbel University, Notre Dame of Dadiangas University, Cronasia Foundation College, Inc., General Santos Foundation College, Inc., Davao Oriental State University, University of Southern Mindanao, Bukidnon State University, Central Mindanao University, Jose Rizal Memorial State University, Zamboanga State College of Marine Science and Technology, MSU– Buug, MSU– General Santos City, MSU– Iligan Institute of Technology, MSU– Lanao Del Norte Agricultural College (LNAC), MSU-Lanao National College of Arts and Trades (LNCAT), MSU- Maguindanao, MSU- Maigo School of Arts and Trades, MSU- Marawi, MSU- Naawan, MSU- Sulu, MSU- Tawi-tawi College of Technology and Oceanography (TCTO), Osaka University, CHED Central Office, Office of the Presidential Advisor for Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), CHED Regional Office XII, Department of Education Region XII, Local Government of General Santos City, Provincial Government of Sarangani, Technical Management Service (TMS), and OCM-BARMM

The 2021 CHED-IDIG Peace Project was headed by Prof. Mario J. Aguja who serves as the Project Leader, together with the Study Leaders, Prof. Jovar G. Pantao, Prof. Ma. Theresa P. Pelones, Prof. Lolymar Jacinto-Reyes, and Prof. Berlita Y. Disca.

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DOST Secretary Dela Peña visits MSU-Gensan

Paolo M. Tagaloguin, MS

MIndanao State University - General Santos was the first stop for the Regional Site Visit conducted by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Fortunato Dela Peña, last June 2, 2022.

Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA, along with Vice Chancellor for Research, Extension and Development, Dr. Edna Perez-Guevarra, University officials, deans, and faculty members, welcomed Hon. Secretary Dela Peña through a short program highlighting and presenting the various laboratories and research projects funded by the DOST. The university awarded the DOST

secretary with a plaque and token of appreciation to recognize the efforts of the department to support the research, development, and extension initiatives of the university. DOST-XII Regional Director Engr. Sammy P. Malawan was also recognized for his outstanding service and support for the research initiatives of MSU-General Santos and the rest of the HEIs in Region 12.

Dr. Edna Perez-Guevarra was also recognized and acknowledged for her sterling contributions as MSU-General Santos' Vice Chancellor for Research, Extension and Development.

Her work for the past 13 years as Research Director, and subsequently, as Vice Chancellor for Research, Extension and Development, has brought MSU-General Santos numerous citations and recognitions as a research institution.

This activity was concluded with a visitation to various DOST-funded laboratories in the university, such as the Histopathology Laboratory, Molecular Biology Laboratory, Ichthyoplankton Laboratory, Intelligent Systems Laboratory, Proposed Metals and Engineering Innovation Center, and the Fruits and Vegetables Processing Plant.



OVCRED organizes RD-LEAD training and seminar-workshop series

Engr. Irene Lara M. Abad, MS

The Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Research, Extension, and Development (OVCRED) conducted series of trainings and seminar-workshops concerning Research and Development Leadership (RD-LEAD) to selected University faculty members last March 23 to April 1, 2022, at the Regional Science Research Center (RSRC).

RD-LEADER Dr. Elmer P. Dadios of the De La Salle University-Manila led the activities as part of second and third tranche of the RD-LEAD Program which officially started last September 29, 2021. The programs were designed to assist in developing the research capabilities of the faculty members of MSU-GSC.

The in-person RDLead commenced with a short program to welcome the participants and was then followed with visitation on differentlaboratories of the institution acquired through different funding agencies.

During the 6-day seminar workshop, following topics and activities were conducted: Workshop on Packaging Program/Project Proposals for Submission to Target Funding Agencies; Workshop on Manuscript Writing for Publication in Peer-Reviewed Journals; Workshop on Drafting Patent and Utility Model Application; and Seminar-Workshop on Writing Policy Briefs and Recommendation.

The program concluded last April 1, 2022 with the presence of the Executive Director of the National Research Council

of the Philippines (NRCP), Dr. Marrieta Banez-Sumagaysay, who talked about the research agenda and membership requirements in the NRCP. The RDLead Program is part of the DOST's Accelerated Research and Development Program for Capacity Building of Research and Development Institutions and Industrial Competitiveness under the Science Change umbrella which aims to enhance

the human research

capital in the country.

RD-Leader, Dr. Elmer P. Dadios delivers his speech on research and development programs that assist in developing the research capabilities of the faculty members of MSU-Gensan.

Extension Office meets with German Development Agency for Collaboration on Coconut Farmers Education

Wilfred D. Bidad, PhD

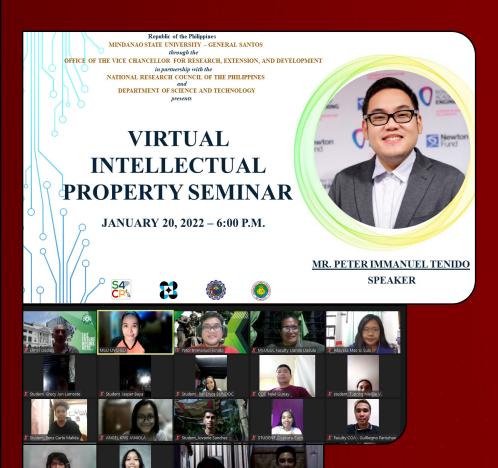
O. Guevarra, Dr. Edna MSU-GSC Vice-Chancellor Research. Extension, and Development (OVCRED) and Dr. Wilfred Bidad, Extension Director, met with Deutshe Gesellschaft fur Intenationale Zusammernarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, CARGILL Officials, and PhilippinE Coconut Authority to discuss collaboration for the roll out of extension program for coconut farmers in Region XII at the RSRC, MSU General Santos City last March 9, 2022.

Headquartered in Bonn and Eschborn, Germany, (GIZ) GmbHisthe main German development agency that provides services in international development cooperation and international education work. The GIZ GmbH was represented by Cornelia Skokov, Chief Adviser.

Along with the OVCRED representatives were Prof. Keneth Sanido and Prof. Jibran Tomindug from College of Business Administration and Accountancy, Prof. Renaldy L. Tupas from College of Agriculture, Dr. Anderson Villa from College of Social Sciences and Humanities, and Dr. Jovar Pantao, Director of Institute for Peace and Development in Mindanao (IPDM).

The program sought to provide extension service among 5,000 farmers in the region.





MSU-Gensan partners with NRCP, DOST for intellectual property seminar

Engr. Irene Lara M. Abad, MS

Mindanao State University - General Santos, in collaboration with the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), held a virtual seminar on Intellectual Property (IP) last January 20, 2022.

Property (IP) last January 20, 2022.

Mr. Peter Immanuel
Tenido, the Project Director of the
De La Salle University (DLSU)
Innovation and Technology Office
(DITO) delivered a comprehensive
discussion on intellectual property
during the event. He discussed

the different categories of IP, explained the role of the University on knowledge and technology transfer, and shared the various activities of DLSU IP Office to help and manage IP matters in their different research projects.

The RDLead Program is part of the DOST's Accelerated Research and Development Program for Capacity Building of Research and Development Institutions and Industrial Competitiveness under the Science for Change umbrella.

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DOST-PCAARRD conducts field monitoring and program evaluation at MSU-Gensan

Blessie Justin Arellano

The Marine Resources Research Division of the Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD) conducted its monitoring and review of Mindanao State University-General Santos City's tuna research program entitled, "Reproductive Biology, Dietary Analysis, and Life-History of Philippine Tuna Species towards Sustainable Fishing Industry in Mindanao" last August 23-26, 2022 at the Regional Science Research Center of this campus.

DOST-PCAARRD Executive Director, Dr. Reynaldo V. Ebora helmed the monitoring team along with Dr. Mari-Ann Acedera, Director for Marine Resources Division (MRRD), Ms. Ma. Adela Corpuz (Supervising Science Research Specialist), Mr. Jaypee Trinidad (Science Research Specialist), Ms. Hannah May Odemer (Project Technical Assistant), and Mr. Dan Carlo Barrion (Project Technical Assistant).

The field monitoring began on the 23rd of August with a visit to Gentuna Century Canning Corporation as part of the benchmarking for the Industry-level Collaborative R&D to Leverage Philippine Economy (I-CRADLE) proposal of MSU-GSC, which is one of the prospective partnerships of the institution with the DOST. The visit was spearheaded by Ms. Joanna Mae Padua, the SOCSKSARGEN Federation of Fishing and Allied Industries, Inc. (SFFAII) representative. Ms. Padua led the tour in the canning facility, introducing the process of tuna

canning production to the delegates. The day was capped with a courtesy call to Chancellor Aragasi and a brief meeting with the MSU-GSC Tuna Research team, the latter of which was the first face-to-face meeting of the two parties since the implementation of the project during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The evaluation and review of the ongoing tuna program, including a tour of the renovated laboratories funded by the DOST was conducted the next dav. Progress of the whole program was presented by Dr. Edna P. Guevarra, Vice-Chancellor for Research, Extension and Development and Program Leader, accomplishments showcasing its since its implementation in March 2020. Dr. Guevarra, together with Prof. Glenville Castrence of the College of Fisheries, also presented the results of Project 1 of the program entitled, Reproductive Biology of Three Philippine Tuna Species in Mindanao.

Meanwhile, the findings of Project 2 of the program, Dietary Analysis and Feeding Habits of Six Philippine Tuna Species using Metagenomics were presented by its Project Leader, Dr. Donna Ria J. Canacan of the College of Agriculture and Dr. Ramjie Y. Odin, Vice-Chancellor for Research, Extension, and Development of MSU-Maguindanao, who also served as a collaborator in the project.

Results of Project 3, Otolith Elemental Fingerprinting, Shape Analysis and Microstructural Analysis of Three Philippine Neritic Tuna Species were presented online by Dr. Cleto Nañola, Jr. and Prof. Ariel Ortiz of the College of Fisheries whereas Prof. Julius V. Mingoc of the College of Fisheries presented the Project 4, Ichthyoplankton Resource Identification Towards Replenishment of Tuna Species in Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape (SBPS) and Adjacent Waters.

The delegates were then toured around the laboratories in the Regional Science Research Center and the College of Fisheries as part of the presentation of Project 5 Upgrading of Marine Biodiversity, Histopathology, and Molecular Biology Laboratories of MSU General Santos City for Advancement of Biodiversity Studies in Mindanao.

Dr. Wilfredo Campos, the invited external evaluator, provided feedback on the findings of the research and gave suggestions for further improvement of the gathered data. Moreover, Dr. Campos, the concurrent Chair for the Division of Biological Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences of University of the Philippines - Visayas, provided pointers for the further refinement of the projects' findings as well as attuning them for policy recommendation to the local government units in SOCSKSARGEN.

Spanning from August 25 to 26, further details regarding the I-CRADLE and other partnerships of the DOST with MSU-GSC were discussed with the delegates. The visit marks the first time the DOST-PCAARRD has visited the MSU-Gensan campus.





DOST, MSU partner for capacity-building on tropical fruits, veg processing in Gensan

Eunece V. Naive & Monlouie M. Sorzano, MA

Mindanao State University – General Santos forged partnership with the Department of Science and Technology XII (DOST XII) through a Memorandum of Agreement on January 25, 2021 at the Conference Room, Administration Building. This is to collaborate in the implementation of the project entitled "Capacity-building on Micro-level Processing of Tropical Fruits and Vegetables in General Santos City" as a component project of GIA (Grant-In-Aid).

In his opening remarks, Dean Edward R. Lapong acknowledged the fruitful collaboration between the two parties and recognized the benefits it brought not only to the College of Agriculture but also to the University.

"MSU being a center of excellence can hopefully contribute much to the development of our food processing industry in this part of the region. I am very thankful to MSU-Gensan... hopefully we can have more partnerships especially in terms of research," said Engr. Sammy P. Malawan, Regional Director of DOST XII. Engr. Malawan also

added that they will continue to support the University in its future endeavors especially for its research-based activities.

"This is an opportunity on our part because DOST is one of the very important pillars of the national government. I think what keeps us moving, what keeps our government moving is because of the efforts of the Department of Science and Technology," stressed by Acting Chancellor Usman D. Aragasi. He also expressed his high hopes for the productive years the partnership will result in.

Furthermore, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Mishell D. Lawas expressed her gratitude to the DOST XII team. "Signing this MOA with you today affirms our commitment to be relevant and responsive as a university to the needs of the community and the city specifically in terms of human resources to provide trainings and capacity-building activities."

In her message, Vice Chancellor for Research, Extension and Development Edna P. Guevarra also extended her full support for the said collaboration. "We assure you with the

new leadership that we have... all the support will be given to the College of Agriculture and to the DOST. MSU is really glad to offer our technical expertise on this project."

Also present during the MOA Signing were the DOST XII delegates, faculty force of the College of Agriculture University officials: OIC-Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Nurleila G. Canacan, OIC-Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development Sheila J. Loable, Campus Secretary Norman Ralph B. Isla, Internal Audit Services Director Lorraine M. Dagalangit, Director of the Office of the Student Affairs Paisar Gadiaware, Research Director Jovanie C. Espesor and Extension Services Assistant Director Keno Jay M. Balogbog.

The project, signed into partnership, is expected to upscale the capacity of our local farmers and other agricultural stakeholders in the microlevel processing of tropical fruits and vegetables in General Santos City. The University is filled with immense gratitude for the confidence entrusted by the DOST XII in co-organizing the said project.

IPR Committee holds intellectual property seminar-workshop

Engr. Irene Lara M. Abad, MS

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Committee, through the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, Extension and Development held a seminar-Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights and Write-Shop for Preparation of Patent Applications last May 11-13, 2022 at the Regional Science Research Center (RSRC). The program served as a response to the moral imperative of the University to improve the enforcement on IP strategies among its faculty members.

The IPRC, headed by Engr. Guillermo P. Pantuhan, collaborated with the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL) and Region 12 Intellectual Property Satellite Office (IPSO) to organize the event with the aim of strengthening the efforts of the institution to protect intangible and tangible outputs on several research projects conducted in the University.

Engr. Emmanuel Mendoza and Engr. Eric Paden of IPOPHL, along with Engr. Jessel Colferos of IPSO 12, led the

3-day workshop which covered several topics on classification, forms, and application requirements on copyright, trademark, patent, utility model, and industrial design; basic patent search and claim drafting; and drafting patent specifications and patent drawings.

The workshop provided an opportunity for the faculty members to know more about the best practices on IP law, trends, and enforcement that will help them on their future IP applications.



OVCPD spearheads joint workshop on campus land use development, offices' staffing pattern

Monlouie M. Sorzano, MA

Mindanao State University – General Santos, through its Office of the Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development (OVCPD), spearheaded a two-part workshop geared toward the creation of a Land Use and Infrastructure Development Plan (LUDIP) for the campuses of the University and the reformulation of the Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern (OSSP) of all offices. The workshops were conducted at the London Beach Resort and Hotel on May 18-21, 2022.

The Workshop on the Content of LUDIP took place on May 18 - 19, 2022. The LUDIP Committee composed of officials and staff from various units was tasked to create a campus master plan for the allocation and utilization of the land resources of the University. The plan's content features the previous, present, and expected scenario of the University, including specific infrastructures that summarize the refinement needed by the University. The LUDIP will help guide the University in its land use and infrastructure projects and ensure complementation with the land use plan and practice of the locality across geographical boundaries. The plan also envisions the adaptation of the academe to the demand of creating a conducive learning and working environment while laying the foundations for strategically utilizing the land areas of its two campuses and a field laboratory site. Operating under an integrated ecosystems approach, the document has factored in essential components of the plan like geographic location, environmental conditions, transportation and communication network, land, water and power policies, disaster risk and reduction management, waste management, and a

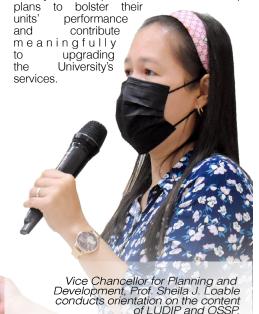
lot more. During the workshop, the working committee provided invaluable inputs, gathered baseline and existing data maps as references, and laid down details of their observations of the strengths and weaknesses of the data requirements for the LUDIP.

Right after the LUDIP Workshop,

all the academic, semi-academic, and administrative units of the University gathered in the same venue for a two-day workshop sequel on May 20-21, 2022. The workshop focused on reformulating their offices' Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern (OSSP). To streamline the functions of all the offices, the OVCPD led the updating of existing organizational structures to meet the growing demands of the University. Along with this is creating a more responsive staffing pattern that will align the existing and upcoming workforce with their proper position titles, salary grades, functions and responsibilities. The proposals made by the offices will be consolidated and presented to concerned local and national agencies for approval. The workshop concluded with presentations from all offices sectioned to their respective domains. forum proceeded with Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA leading. Present in the four-day affair,

Chancellor Aragasi encouraged the MSU-Gensan constituents to participate in these planning efforts actively and to ensure commitment to the development goals of the University. He stressed that harnessing the University's potential for designing, updating, and implementing plans optimizes

its mission to provide quality services through its instruction, research, extension, and production mandates. He engaged all the participants by evaluating their proposals and probing questions that led to a comprehensive review of the workshops' outputs VCPD Sheila J. Loable, the brainchild of the workshop series, has provided helpful insights that guided the participants in accomplishing their tasks. She has challenged the offices, led by their respective heads, to develop



Bar 2020/21: MSU-Gensan serves as Region 12 testing center

Monlouie M. Sorzano, MA

The Bar 2020/21, dubbed as the #BestBarEver, concluded last February 6, 2022. The first computerized Bar Exam was declared a success after several postponements due to the continuing onslaught of the pandemic and all other challenges in its first regional administration. After two long years of waiting and rigid reviews, the future lawyers have already taken the exam of their lives.

This year, Mindanao State University- General Santos was chosen as one of the first-ever regionalized testing centers for the Bar Examination. Examinees from all over Region 12 took the exam in their designated rooms inside the University where they were subjected to the strictest security and health regulations to ensure their safety and well-being. In photos, Bar examinees were

supported by their respective families, friends, universities, and fraternities and sororities from the beginning and until the last day of the Bar Examination. The supporters were on site for their Bar Operations as early as 4:00 AM and stayed until the afternoon for the traditional Salubong. After the examination, the examinees were welcomed with warm embraces and vibrant smiles of celebration.





Halal Research and Training Center: Newly established Halal Center in Southern Philippines

Mohammad A. Ali, JD

By virtue of BOR Resolution No. 503. S.2021, the Halal Research and Training Center (HRTC) was created and establsihed in the campus on December 20, 2021. The lack of a Halal Research and Training Center in the region and Mindanao motivated Mindanao State University-General Santos to develop a Halal industry-specific center. The Halal Research and Training Center encourages the development international halal standards. It will serve the interests of education, teaching, research, and community service in the Southern Philippines.

The HRTC was established with the vision of becoming a Primary Regional Halal Center for Research and Training that encourages Muslims in Region XII and beyond to live a halal lifestyle. Its mission is to provide the region and the entire nation with high-quality halal industry research, training, and consulting services.

During the holy month of Ramadan, the HRTC held a Grand Iftar and soft launch of the center on April 28, 2022 at the AVR, University Library. The inauguration of the HRTC was the focal point of this year's annual Iftar at MSU General Santos. The purpose of the soft launch was to promote the Halal Research and Training Center at MSU, which also served as a forum for discussing certified halal products and services. The HRTC is

responsible for fostering knowledgesharing among experts about halal standards, halal certification, halal e-commerce, and other halal research and training topics.

Dr. Abdul M. Lantong, the director of HRTC, gave a presentation in which he introduced the new office on campus and provided a comprehensive overview of halal. Dr. Lantong stressed the significance of the Arabic word "Halal," which, according to Islamic law, implies lawful or allowed for human consumption. Muslims worldwide use the term halal to refer to things and activities approved under Islamic law.

The HRTC was created by the late Chancellor, Dr. Anshari P. Ali. with the assistance of halal experts from the University. The current administration is committed to achieving the HRTC's goals, which are to promote capacity-building programs aimed at increasing halal-related knowledge, skills, and attitudes; develop a curriculum for halal industry and consumerism; relevant pursue research, development, and extension initiatives in halal industry and consumerism that are grounded in the national and regional halal research agenda; and provide spaces for the exchange of ideas and best practices.

UP-Min's HIHEIRIT Team conducts assessment visit at MSU-Gensan

Eunece V. Naive

The Handholding Starting Incubators from Higher Education Institution for Readiness towards Innovation and Technopreneurship (HIHEIRIT) Team from the University of the Philippines Mindanao conducted an assessment visit to the Technology Business Incubators (TBI) Team on April 28, 2022, at the Conference Room, Administration Building.

The said visit is a requirement for the HEIs submitting proposals for the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) HEIRIT Preparatory Program funding the establishment of university-based technology business incubators.

The TBI Team is headed by its TBI Manager Dr. Noel S. Gunay and the TBI Assistant Manager Dr. Marissa G. Dela Cruz. On behalf of the Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA, Dr. Gunay delivered his commitment message to the participants of the assessment visit. He said that the university is willing to take all the necessary steps for the training program and form a team that will work towards developing technology entrepreneurs. "We are very thankful for DOST-PCIEERD for this opportunity [that] hopefully will have university-based TBI on our campus," he added.

Moreover, the HIHEREIT team, led by Prof. Miguel Carlo Guillermo, explained the program's objectives and expected outcomes. They also shared their expectations for the TBI members for the successful completion of the said program.



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MSU-Gensan activates new Water Analytical Laboratory and Research Center

Vienna Marie B. Echalar, RMT

Mindanao State University-General Santos City recently held a ribbon-cutting and turnover ceremony last June 21, 2022, which marked the beginning of the operation of MSU-General Santos City Water Analytical Laboratory and Research Center.

General Manager of General Santos City Water District (GSCWD) Engr. Arn B. Gellangarin, together with Chairperson of Board of Director, Engr. Manuel Fortunato D. Yaphockun, Vice Chairman, Dr. Francisco N. Lorenzo; MSU-GSC Acting Chancellor, JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA; Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Michelle D. Lawas; Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Dr. Edna P. Guevarra, Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development; Prof. Sheila J. Loable; Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, Ms. Nurleila G. Canacan, and other faculty members, gathered and witnessed the said inauguration ceremony through a ceremonial blessing followed by the

ribbon-cutting, turning over of the key, and the signing of the deed of donation.

The GSCWD donated the Water Analytical Research Laboratory for use on property owned by Mindanao State University-General Santos. It is headed by the Dean of the College of Agriculture, Dr. Edward R. Lapong, who also serves as the Center Director, and Dr. Edwin C. Alconcel, MD, APCP, who serves as the Laboratory Head. Moreover, to strengthen the partnership of both institutions, the University granted the GSCWD use of a piece of land for well-drilling, pump house construction, and raised steel tank operation.

Upon receiving its license **WALRC** operate. the can to accommodate tests regarding water analysis, including total coliform, fecal coliform, E. coli, gram staining, and heterotrophic plate count testing on drinking water to ensure a safe water source for all generals. The research facility also envisions expanding and catering physico-chemical testing on all water samples with its mission to facilitate efficient collaboration among academe, government, private sector and the general community in ensuring safe and reliable water sources for the present and future generations.



MSU-Gensan holds consultative meeting with DBM



State University Mindanao General Santos conducted a consultative meeting with Department of Budget and Management (DBM) held on March 24, 2022 at Green Leaf General Santos Hotel, City. DBM Assistant Secretary Achilles Gerard C. Bravo, together with DBM 12 Regional Director Ukmad J. Usman graced the consultation. The administration led by Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA raised specific concerns of MSU-General Santos regarding budgetary appropriations and transactions of the University. Asec. Bravo and RD Usman comprehensively answered the concerns.

In a courtesy speech, Asec. Bravo stressed the importance of going personally to HEIs to better know the needs of the academe. He also emphasized the necessity to strengthen the University's policy direction and standardization. Also, other relevant matters were further discussed during the meeting such as the reclassification

of positions in the administrative force of the University and the proposal for the training hospital the College of Medicine. MSU-Gensan consulted with DBM to ensure that budget priorities are aligned with the University's needs throughout budget formulation. Moreover, the event served as an opportunity to exchange ideas. practices strategies. and best on budgeting processes that will aid in the University's operations.



Eunece V. Naive & Engr. Joshua Marvin A. Noval

Resource Management Office (HRMO) spearheaded an Orientation and Exellence in Human Resource (PRIME-HRM) Management place on April 7, 2022 at the Conference Room, Administration Building. The event aimed to acquaint the HRMO staff and the university employees regarding processes of assessment. assistance, and recognition of the HRM

General Santos through the Human toward Human Resources excellence. Ms. Flordeliza on welcomed the participants and gave Program to Institutionalize Meritocracy the rationale for the activity. Moreover, Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, and MPA graced the event and stressed, in Program for Rewards and Incentives for his message, the need to empower the Services Excellence (PRAISE). It took HRMO to enhance the organization and in their respective offices. The open employees' effectiveness, commitment, performance in the University. Civil Service Commission (CSC) Alabel, Sarangani Field Office Director Edna for

Mindanao State University - system, competencies, and practices mechanisms designed to elevate public sector human resource management to a level of excellence. Thereafter, an open forum was conducted to give an opportunity for the participants to brainstorm ideas and share strategies on how to observe PRIME-HRM and PRAISE forum was moderated by the HRMO Director JD Usman M. Disalongan. Finally, Vice Chancellor Administration Finance C. Nebrija-Mahinay was the event's lead Nurleila G. Canacan concluded the discussant. She oriented on the different program with her closing remarks.

RMO hosts orientation-seminar on file management, records disposal

Eunece V. Naive & John Anndrew Tenecio

Mindanao State University -General Santos through the Records Management Office (RMO) hosted a two-day Orientation-Seminar on File Management and Records Disposal with the theme "Records Life Cycle: A Management Tool for Good Practice and Governance in the University" on May 30-31, 2022 at Regional Science Research Center. It aims to train MSU-Gensan employees in the creation and control, maintenance and use, and disposition and archiving of official documents and records. message, Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA stressed the importance of the said workshop, especially for MSU-Gensan administrative staff. Acting Chancellor Aragasi also added that this event is essential in improving product quality, improving visibility, reducing compliance risks, and increasing workforce flexibility.

Topics on File Management and Records Disposition Administration were tackled by Mr. Terence Michael A. Tablizo, the Supervising Records Management Analyst of the National Archive of the Philippines. He also emphasized the proper manner toward systematic and economical disposal or preservation of records in the agency, as well as technical knowledge on the effective and efficient fulfillment of the tasks and obligations in dealing with managing and safeguarding records. Moreover, he stressed the need not only to secure incoming and outgoing official papers and communications but also to store and preserve them properly for easy retrieval.

The workshop was actively participated by the faculty and staff from different colleges and offices. This endeavor provided up-to-date knowledge and skills essential to the efficient delivery of services of the University.



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MSU aligns Service PE Courses to CMO No. 39, s. 2021 PATHFIT

Jinny L. Chee Kee, MA

To revisit the quality of instruction and align the course content and description of Basic Physical Education (PE) Courses through CMO No. 39, s. 2021 and BOR Resolution No. 144 s. 2022, the PE faculty members from all campuses attended the MSU System PE Summit 2022 at MSU, Maigo, last August 6-8. The objectives of this summit are: (1) develop a system-wide syllabus for Pathfit 1-4; (2) integrate new sports and fitness trends in teaching physical education; and, (3) demonstrate to the teachers the proper usage of the Learning Instrument called FMS (Functional Movement Screening and Intervention). The Campus Superintendent of MSU Maigo Atty. Jamelon A. Basar graced the summit with a warm welcome to all participants on all campuses.

The PSG of the CMO 39, s. 2021 were the following:

- 1.) The Tertiary Physical Education program shall consist of the following Physical Education courses with a total of 8 units: PE 1 (PATHFIT1) and PE 2 (PATHFit2) are the core or foundation courses of PE 3(PATHFit3) and PE 4 (PATHFit4)
- 2.) The achievement of course outcomes will also be facilitated through the participation of moderate to vigorous physical activities outside of PE time.
- 3.) Class size is dependent on the nature of physical activity. HEIs are required to undertake precautions to ensure the students safety during the movement performance and that there is adequate equipment and space.
- 4.) The marks of PE grade shall be included in the computation of General Weighted Average (GWA) for all students, especially to scholastic honors.
- 5.) No student shall be allowed to take part more than one PE Course per semester except for graduating students where two (2) higher PE's can be enrolled simultaneously.
- 6.) There shall be no exemption of PE. Students With Additional Needs (SWAN) and students with prohibited medical conditions that have been dignosed by a Physician shall have the teaching-learning activities modified accordingly to suit their needs and abilities.
- 7.) Under no circumstances shall PE be substituted for other courses or activities (ex. Varsity)
- 8.) There shall be adequate facilities and equipment relevant to the PE courses.
- 9.) Completion of PE shall be a requirement for graduation.

While Private Institutions had included PATHFIT in their curriculum, the MSU System used the old course description in PE Courses in the previous semesters. Nonetheless, with the initiative of the Dean of College of SPEAR of MSU, Marawi, Prof. Hendely A. Adlawan, and Prof. Visminda L. Detalla and the valuable contribution of Prof. Corazon Biong of MSU-IIT, the summit created a uniform output of syllabus and materials, and course code and description to be used in all campuses this upcoming Academic Year 2022-2023, to wit:

PED011 (PATHFit1) – Movement Competency Training **PED012 (PATHFit2)** – Exercise-Based Fitness Activities

Pre-requisite: PED011

PED013 (PATHFit3) – Menu of Courses (Choice of Individualand dual Sports, Recreational Games, Traditional Games, Dance, Martial Arts and Group Exercise, Pre-

requisite: PED012

PED014 (PATHFit4) – Menu of Courses (Choice of Team Sports, Outdoor and Adventure Activities, Pre-requisite: PED012

On the last day, the participants decided to organize themselves and elect officers after all the presentations, demonstrations and meeting the objectives. After deliberation on the group's name, the majority voted that the group be named MSUSPEA (Mindanao State University System Physical Educator's Association). The association aimed at the unification of instructional materials. The elected officers are:

President: Prof. Visminda L. Detalla MSU Main

Internal Vice President: **Prof. Corazon Biong** MSU-IIT

External Vice President: **Prof. Lorie B. Martin** MSU- Gensan

Secretary: **Prof. Ellen Grace Belga** MSU Main Treasurer: **Prof. Vanessa S. Maghanoy** MSU-IIT

Auditor: **Prof. Jinny L. Chee Kee** MSU-Gensan

PIO: Prof. Leo Santillana MSU-IIT

Overall, the MSU System Physical Education Summit successfully crafted the syllabus and materials to be used for PED001-PED014. Indeed, the participants developed the value of unity and camaraderie and strengthened their knowledge of one's profession.



University holds Council Meeting; proposes BALCS degree program

Eunece V. Naive

Mindanao State University General Santos held its University Council Meeting at the Audio-Visual Room, University Library, and via Zoom Conferencing on April 27, 2022. Chancellor Acting Usman D. Aragasi, MPA convened the Academic members of Council composed of college deans, department chairpersons, and faculty representatives to present and discuss a catch-up plan for the remainder of Academic Year 2021-2022, as well as new protocols for the forthcoming 2022-2023. Academic Year presentation of candidates for graduation was also on the agenda and undertaken by the different colleges to forecast the composition of the graduating class.



Moreover. the Enalish Department proposed the Bachelor of Arts in Literary and Cultural Studies (BALCS) degree program. It highlights multicultural and interdisciplinary perspectives which will allow students enhance their communicative competencies in reading, writing, speaking, listening, critical thinking, and interpretation, including translation. The program is perfectly suited for students who have a strong and diverse interest in culture, literature, and the arts.



CAO Staff join Philippines International Storytelling Festival '22

26 TH FEBRUARY 2022 3 PM PHT (Philippines Time) 16 WIB (Western Indonesia Time)

Raydan M. Tangwayan, LPT

The Mindanao State University—General Santos City, represented by three (3) staff from the University Cultural Affairs Office (CAO), shone at the inaugural SaySay Festival, The Philippines International Storytelling Festival, last February 26, 2022.

CAO storytellers were Mr.

CAO storytellers were Mr. Raydan M. Tangwayan (Admin Staff and Arya Coordinator), who shared the story of "Dakel Bolan," which explains the mythology of their tribe; Ms. Rochelle Claire Podico-Baliong (Kabpapagariya Ensemble Coordinator) shared the "Siling" story of the Hiligaynon; and Mr. Halim G. Tabi, Jr (Museum Staff)

displayed the levels of the Sangir tribe with his piece entitled "Umate Matakitang."

"It was a challenge since we shared our stories using our mother tongue. We have to convey with a great expression so that the audience, especially the kids, can connect even without the aid of translation. Luckily, we also endeavored to write the translation for effective communication." said Mr. Tabi.

Finally, Dr. Alma Celesthia D. Aguja, the Director of the CAO, noted that she was happy to let the staff grab opportunities for their skills development, primarily that CAO promotes culture and arts. Dr. Aguja also thanked the Office of the Chancellor for its continuous support.

Facebook live streaming was used to host the online storytelling event. Eleven interesting stories from eleven distinct cultural and ethnic groups were presented in eleven different languages. The storytelling event was enhanced by music, chants, and gestures because everyone tells a different narrative from a different ethnic background.

The storytelling festival was powered by Ayo Dongeng Indonesia.



University recognizes Dance Sports Champs

Eunece V. Naive

Nine (9) participants from the Mindanao State University—General Santos City Dance Sports Team had a courtesy visit with the University Acting Chancellor Usman D. Aragasi, J.D., MPA, on April 11, 2022. Acting Chancellor Aragasi warmly welcomed and extended his felicitations to the participants for representing the University.

The University Dance Sports Team competed during the 2nd Manila Open Dancesport Championship 2022 held last March 26 and 27, 2022 where they won the following awards.

Gold – Open Duo Male Latin Category

Silver – Open Duo Female Latin Category

Bronze – Open Duo Female Latin Category

Semi-Finalist – Grade C Couple Standard Category

Semi-Finalist – Solo Youth D Latin Category

MSU-Gensan holds 43rd Commencement Exercises

Eunece V. Naive

Three thousand hundred eleven (3,111) graduates of Classes 2020, 2021, and 2022 marched in person during the 43rd Commencement Exercises of the Mindanao State University- General Santos City with the theme, "Towards MSU-GSC: **SMART** Advancing Academic Excellence through Sustainable Peace and Internalization" on June 14, 2022, at the University Quadrangle.

Commencement The Exercises went on regardless of the adverse and poor weather conditions. Since it was the most anticipated day of their life, the graduates, parents, friends, guests, and spectators were unfazed by the accumulating black clouds that eventually turned into rain. Still, the graduating students marched wearing their drenched maroon togas and caps but were still all smiles and in high spirits. It was indeed a test of faith and determination, which all MSUans learned during their years at the University.

"Gibulad. Gipaulanan. Dili musugot ang MSU nga muhawa mo nga dili palisdan. Your transcript of records will be in the repository of the University but your memories and experiences, your stories of success will be forever in our hearts," Prof. Norman Ralph B. Isla, the Campus Secretary remarked that the rainy ceremony was the one last test of the graduates' struggle in MSU– General Santos City.

After introducing the campus officials and guests coming from the MSU System and its campuses, Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA, presented the candidates for graduation and was followed by the conferment of titles and degrees upon the candidates for graduation by the MSU System President, Atty. Basari D. Mapupuno. Moreover, Prof. Tersa R. Castillo, the University Registrar, acknowledged the academic honors and other awards recipients.

Berry P. Lauron, a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics graduate from the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, was hailed as the Batch Valedictorian of Class 2022. He is the first Summa Cum Laude of the

University after fifteen (15) years.

In his valedictory speech, Lauron mentioned that the University had trained its graduates to endure many hardships in life and guided them in cultivating a greater sense of purpose. "The downpour will not diminish the warmth of the celebration we have today, for this momentous event marks the culmination of our hard-fought battle in earning the right to wear the coveted maroon toga. So, now when you look around you, all you can see are competent, world-class products of an academic institution that has proven time and time again its caliber in delivering quality education."

Lauron also shared the three life lessons he learned that molded his character as an MSUan. "The first lesson is that you should take charge of your future by taking your first step today; the second lesson is that your biggest competition is yourself; and lastly, do dream not only high but also deep." He ended his speech by urging his fellow graduates to anchor everyone's dreams on compassion, be fueled to create an impact on other people's lives, and advocate for our nation's improvement.

Joey A. Belarmino, a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology graduate from the College of Social Sciences and Humanities, finished Magna Cum Laude and led the Pledge of Loyalty.

Moreover, the University, through the Mindanao State University Alumni Association (MSUAA), headed by Prof. Rhodora T. Englis, the System Alumni Regent, recognized Brelyn P. Belmores, the Supreme Student Council President, as the University Student Leadership Awardee. During Belmores's speech, she expressed her gratitude by honoring the hardships and sacrifices of her parents as she journeyed through college life.

"I acknowledge the efforts, hardships, and pain of every one of us, but there are parents and guardians who are struggling to provide behind us who are trying very hard. Behind our tears of overnight homework are their sweats for overtime work. In every 'us,' there were them," said Belmores.

Hon. J. Prospero E. De Vera III, the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), served as the 34th Commencement Speaker. In his speech, Hon. De Vera commended the graduates for their unwavering efforts through unprecedented times.

"Why are you the special batch of graduates? First, you are the latest and the first graduates who completed their education after going through senior high and completing it under R.A. No. 10931, also known as The Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education law. As the first graduates, this makes you the real 'Iskolar ng Bayan." According to him, what further makes the graduates the special batch are their resilience, perseverance, and diligence while facing the pandemic. "COVID-19 has made you stronger and more challenging and brought out your inner desire to help. The worst of times brought out the best in your values. Values that I hope you keep and use as you encounter the next phase of your life. Huwag kayong mahihiya na sabihing COVID graduates kayo. Dapat ipagmayabang ninyo na COVID graduates kayo dahil nagawa nyo ito sa gitna ng pandemya and you have develop skills that the graduates before you, do not have."

Lastly, Hon. De Vera put high hopes on the graduates that they would be active contributors to national growth, leaving three pieces of advice to live by. "To our graduates, when the path is tough, forgive yourself if your path to achieving your goal is not a straight line. Second, don't worry if you fail. Failures will come along the way. It is in picking yourself up that is important. And finally, you are always asked to give back dahil iskolar kayong bayan. Sometimes the best way to give back is to keep working towards your goal."

The 43rd Commencement Exercises concluded with the symbolic torch lighting as the graduates sang their community song 'Go for Gold' by Kyle Patrick, followed by a unison of the Himno ng Pamantasang Mindanao. Fireworks lit up the sky as the graduates relished the moments with their classmates, teachers, friends, and families. The in-person graduation rites of the University marked a post-pandemic feat for the academic community as it looks forward to the opening of the campus for face-to-face classes next academic year.



COLLEG F NATURAL ENER SANTOS CITY Berry Lauron hailed Summa Cum Laude breaking 15-year drought

Jefferson Quipit

It was during July 2022 when a seemingly citrusy name, Berry Lauron, likened to a namesake fruit, broke the MSU strata - MSU-Gensan's third Summa Cum Laude in 15 years. But before claiming the elusive Summa title, the story of Berry Lauron's ripening was full of, verbatim, 'unhealthy study routines,' 'all-nighters,' 'self-pressure,' and other hurdles before achieving the university's highest distinction.

On hurdling his studies

Berry Lauron opted for a BS Mathematics degree as it was among his top-three course choices, along with BS Applied Mathematics and BS Chemistry. He ultimately chose BS Mathematics as it accommodates his DOST Scholarship at the university.

During his freshmen years, Lauron never eyed the summa title. He was never even aware of the grade requirements for the Latin honors. "What I just aimed is to perform academically well to maintain my scholarships and also to have a clean Transcript of Records (TOR)," Lauron said in an interview.

Additionally, he recalled several pieces of advice from his seniors from his volleyball team, Mr. Bertrand Doce and Mr. Aldrich Talonding. He aimed to secure 1.00 or uno's during his first and second year in college.

"The lowest grades that I got are 2.50 from the ROTC and 2.00 from the Life and Works of Rizal course," Lauron shares. "I admit that those two subjects are not my forte, since in ROTC we are required to be always

early and to be snappy, and in Life and Works of Rizal I became a bit lax with my studies."

On the apparent notice of the possibility

Only during his third year in college, it was at that time that Lauron thought his grades were aligning with the Summa title. But he also realized that, during his third and fourth years in college, his

subjects would get progressively more challenging due to research subjects and practicums.

"My study routine is actually unhealthy, but it [was what] worked for me," Lauron said as he placed more effort into maintaining his high grades to get the highest title in the university. He pulled all-nighters, studying during the minuscule hours of dawn, as he cannot wake up in the morning even with multiple alarms.

On his thesis and overcoming challenges amid CoVid

"Another challenge that I encountered is of course the pandemic that started in 2020," Lauron shared his challenges. "It was a challenge all of us faced, so it was a challenge that cannot be overcome alone." The shift from a physical to a digital learning environment was a tremendous hurdle on his part.

Lauron thanked his professors, who kept their competence, though there was an abrupt shift in the learning

modality. "Fortunately, with the help of our competent professors and lecturers, I was able to push through with my studies," Lauron took pride in his mentors.

mentors.

"I cannot take all of the credit for that achievement because my thesis adviser, Dr. Jay Buscano, has provided a lot of help in the completion of my paper and for that, I am extremely thankful," Lauron then shares his thesis, which won Best Thesis during the 1st Mathematical Research Colloquium conducted on the 30th of June 2022, with the title: 'On the Elements of the Image Set of the Canonical Map From the Banach Algebra Onto the Calkin Algebra of Hilbert Space.'

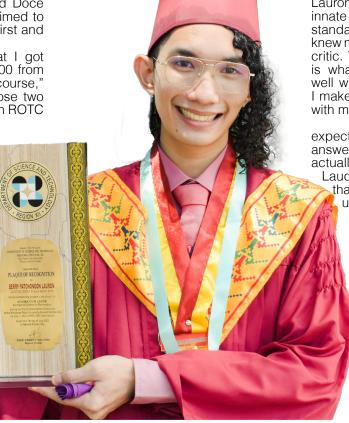
On Lauron's triumph

People around Berry Lauron have anticipated his semestral GWA; he was a viable candidate for Summa Cum Laude. "Certainly, there were expectations from my family, friends, and professors because they were aware of my standing."

"However, I can say that I don't feel any pressure coming from them, rather the pressure is from myself," Lauron shares his struggle with having innate pressure. "I hold myself to a standard, and the people who really knew me know that I am my own harshest critic. The pressure I put [on] to myself is what usually drives me to perform well with my studies and projects, and I make sure that my outputs are on par with my standards."

When asked about Lauron's expectation of receiving the title, he answered, "I must say it felt surreal to actually achieve the title of Summa Cum Laude, even more so after knowing that it had been 15 years before the

university gained another Summa."
Lauron credits his ripening to his family, friends, and professors; without them, he might not be able to receive the highest title in the university. Like a simile on his namesake fruit name, Berry Lauron is the grade A+ cream of the crop, the only Summa Cum Laude of 2021-2022 Batch Hiraya, and the person who marked the end of the 15-year Summadrought of the university.



Enduring Spirit:A glimpse of Tatay Davy Matugol's life

Jovanie C. Espesor, Ph.D. & Jessiebel L. Manansang

The 43rd Commencement Exercises of the Mindanao State University– General Santos City on July 14, 2022, showcased many significant milestones in the history of the University. On top of them all, the graduation ceremony marked the return to normalcy of academic activities in the University as 3,111 graduates of Classes 2020, 2021, and 2022 finally marched in person after postponements due to the global health crisis. Another feat that punctuated the commencement ceremony is the graduation of the Class of 2022, Batch Hiraya's oldest batchmate, 66-year-old Davy Matugol.

Earlier life of Tatay Davy

Born on September 6, 1956, Davy Matugol or popularly known as Tatay Davy, is a member of the Blaan tribe from Batutuling, Glan, Sarangani Province. He is the eldest among eight children. Throughout his elementary and secondary years, Tatay Davy used to sell different goods such as guavas, onions, Philippine oranges (dalanghita), and avocados grown in their backyards in Batutuling. He was selling fruits and vegetables to his teachers and other people to help ease his parents' financial burden in raising a family of ten.

Every school day, Tatay Davy took a 14-kilometer back-and-forth journey, on foot, from their house in Batutuling to Big Margus to attend classes and sell their farm produce. On his way back to Batutuling after school hours, he had to carry coconut seedlings from his Blaan uncles with coconut plantations and plant them during weekends on the land inherited by his father from their ancestors. To date, around 1,500 coconut trees that Tatay Davy planted in the 1970s are now bearing fruits and producing income for his family.

First attempt at college and the death of his father

After high school graduation at the age of 30, Tatay Davy was sent by his family to Kabacan, North Cotabato, to study Bachelor of Arts in English at the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) in 1986. Unfortunately, after two years, he needed to go home to Batutuling, due to his father's untimely demise at age 59. The death of the patriarch in Tatay Davy's family forced him to quit schooling, as he needed to take care of his mother and seven siblings. As the eldest son, Tatay Davy acted as the provider of the family by taking over the farm left by their deceased father.

Political life and platform of government

Tatay Davy is also a respected local politician in Batutuling, Glan, Sarangani Province. He entered politics in 2010 when he was elected as a member of the Barangay Council. Tatay Davy as a Kagawad, served for three consecutive terms. He shared that he

had the opportunity to ask permission from the late Chancellor, Dr. Anshari P. Ali, concerning attendance in his classes since the Barangay Batutuling Legislative Council sessions are scheduled either on the first or second Friday of the month.

To date, he is serving his last term in the Barangay Legislative Council. Throughout his political career, Tatay Davy persistently advocated for the government to make education a priority development agenda. And because of this, he did his undergraduate thesis about the role of barangay governance in fostering local development and improving people's welfare.

Journey to MSU

Although Tatay Davy had initially studied a tertiary program in USM, he was no longer eligible to pursue a college degree directly when the K to 12 education policy took effect in the Philippines. As a result, in 2016, Tatay Davy took advantage of continuing his education by enrolling in Grade 11.

After his senior high school graduation, in a chance encounter at an eatery in Barangay Margus, Tatay Davy met two professors from MSU-GSC — Prof. Jerry J. Dela Cruz, Director of the Admission Office, and Prof. Richard R. Pernia, Chairperson of the Department of Political Science.

Both professors were fascinated by this senior citizen senior high school graduate. Hence, they encouraged Tatay Davy to seek admission to MSU– General Santos City. At 61, Tatay Davy took the System Admission and Scholarship Examination (SASE). Unfortunately, he got a score of 50, below the passing mark of 75. But with fate working his way, Tatay Davy as a member of the Blaan tribe qualified for the Cultural Bound Program (CBP) of the University. Finally, after 45 days of hurdling remedial classes, the Department of Political Science accepted him as a regular first-year student. In the BA Political Science program, his classmates treated Tatay Davy dearly as 'tatay.'

Student life and health secrets

Like typical students, Tatay Davy spent his university days attending classes and doing usual student activities. However, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit the Philippines, Tatay Davy was forced to stay in Batutuling and continue attending online classes. Amidst all the adjustments and with his sheer desire to continue his education, Tatay Davy finished four semesters in distance education.

Tatay Matugol is privileged to get the Tertiary Education Scholarship (TES) from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), which granted him a stipend of P20,000.00 per semester.

His stipend helped Tatay defray food and transportation expenses during his stint at the University. On top of his stipend, he also received an honorarium of P6,000.00 as a Barangay Kagawad in Batutuling, a portion of which was also used to support the education of his nieces and nephews.

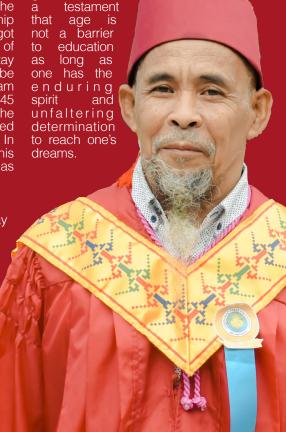
Despite old age, Tatay Davy remains healthy and full of vigor. He shared that he has no degenerative illness, and his health secrets are a combination of a healthy lifestyle and a simple diet of vegetables and less meat. Most of the time, Tatay Davy prefers to walk instead of riding motorcycles. He is proud to say that he is still very much capable of climbing mountains without exhaustion.

What is next for Tatay Davy?

After attending his commencement exercises, Tatay Davy is aiming to enroll in the Master in Public Administration Program of the MSU School of Graduate Studies. Should he finish a master's degree, he plans to acquire a Juris Doctor degree from the University's College of Law. Indeed, his determination to learn and pursue further education is beyond question.

The story of Tatay Davy is a shred of extraordinary evidence that the Mindanao State University— General Santos City is fulfilling its reason for the existence of facilitating transformative change in the lives of Moro and indigenous people in the Southern Philippines. Finally, Tatay Davy's

graduation





Batch Marahuyo: Class of 2022 finishes Senior High School

Eunece V. Naive & Jaydee G. Paid, MA

The Senior High School Department of the Mindanao State University— General Santos City conducted its 5th Commencement Exercises for Class of 2022: Batch Marahuyo on July 20, 2022, at the University Gymnasium with the theme "K to 12 Graduates: Pursuing Dreams and Fostering Resilience in the Face of Adversity."

Henri Marie C. Belimac, Class Salutatorian, warmly welcomed the parents and guests. "Our batch, class of 2022 is unfortunately considered 'the pandemic batch'. Sadly, we were only able to experience senior high school life through pixels on a screen because of this, no matter how much we deny it we all know that we never have lived out the true potential of what our senior high school would have been, and I cannot say that's okay, but I am certain of one thing: we still learned from it." Belimac also added that those two years made them mature individually into versions of themselves they never knew existed. "As we enter whatever path we choose after this ceremony, I hope you always keep in mind to not let others' expectations of us distort our personal standards. Change. Surprise them."

Hon. John Salvador D. Demdam, served as the MSU-Senior High School's guest speaker. "Congratulations to all of you on your accomplishment. The days ahead of you will be exciting but they are also challenging. However, how

successfully you navigate these times will depend entirely on your determination." In his speech, Hon. Demdam emphasized that in reality, life is all about taking risks and encouraged the graduates to finish what they started and continue taking further steps in their student journey. "At this moment you all don't have risks here, instead, you all have what we call calculated risks. You are acting and taking the path because success is guaranteed." Carrying out a great deal of research, anticipating mistakes, establishing milestones and long-term objectives, keeping an open mind and being prepared to make adjustments, and overcoming the fear of the word 'no' are the 5 key points he imparted on how to play risk game strategically. He also urged the graduates to 'pay attention to themselves, 'focus on the self and do not get lost focusing', 'refuse to mislead and lie', 'avoid being envious', and 'aim for excellence'.

Krisline Jell A. Zonio, Class Valedictorian, led the Batch Marahuyo Class of 2022. In her valedictory speech, she narrated her struggles in distant learning and how she viewed the problems and challenges as opportunities to continually seek new learnings. "During the pandemic, I made my newly-discovered skills and knowledge worthwhile. I learned how to play a specific sport even though I am not someone who is into Although physical activities. considered myself

an effort to socialize with other students and connect with them. I was able to bring out the best of me that I never expected from myself. I have become more self-reliant and empathetic." She also reminded her fellow graduates to not let anyone judge and invalidate their chosen paths. "We should not let others limit our capabilities, degrade our choices in life, and dictate our future. Let us keep in mind that every academic strand is equally challenging to provide knowledge to hone our abilities and lead us to the fulfillment of our dreams." she remarked.

This momentous event was graced by the administration led by Acting Chancellor, JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA, represented by Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Mishell D. Lawas, Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension, Dr. Edna P. Guevarra, represented by Prof. Paolo M. Tagaloguin, Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development Sheila J. Loable, Campus Registrar, Prof. Tersa R. Castillo, Campus Secretary, Prof. Norman Ralph B. Isla, Dean of the College of Education, Dr. Maria Theresa P. Pelones, BSED Chairperson, Dr. Salome F. Sestina, Office of International Affairs Directress, Prof. Beverly T. Garcia, Office of Guidance and Counselling Directress, Ms. Hania Persia F. Usman, RPM, University Press and Communications Office Director, Mr. Monlouie M. Sorzano, MA and the faculty and staff of Senior High School led by its Directress, Ms. Jean D. Bergante, MS.



MSU-Gensan joins BIPA: Indonesian language for foreign speakers program

Sorayah M. Maunda, LPT

Mindanao State University– General Santos, in collaboration with the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Davao City, participated in the Bahasa Indonesia Bagi Penutur Asing (BIPA) Program or Indonesian Language for Foreign Speaker Program on February 14, 2022.

The BIPA Program is intended for anyone who desires to learn Indonesian (Bahasa Indonesia) online as part of the Ministry of Education and Culture's efforts to promote the Indonesian language overseas by providing courses and curricula to international students inside and outside of Indonesia. It also aims to acquaint foreign speakers with Indonesian culture and art to establish a community of fully immersed learners.

The virtual orientation began

with an opening address by Prof. Dr. Ir. Aisyah Enah Palupi, M. Pd., of the Indonesian Embassy in the Philippines. Prof. Palupi welcomed and expressed her gratitude to the participants. She stated that she values individuals who take their BIPA to new heights and sincerely hopes that everyone will enjoy the benefits of Indonesia's willingness to share its culture and language.

In his statement, Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA, expressed his optimism for the program's success, noting that it provides opportunities for interested students and others to learn Bahasa.

"This is a very relevant program for ASEAN countries to have the opportunity to substantially understand the language. Remember, when you are understanding a language of a particular country you are also introduced to understanding the culture, the norms, the system of that country," said Acting Chancellor Aragasi.

The program was offered formal one-semester a course. The beginner level (BIPA 1) was designed to help students achieve a basic level competency in Bahasa Indonesia. This level focused primarily on formal and basic conversational skills. Cultural knowledge is essential for improving these communication abilities. This level is suitable for those with no prior knowledge of Bahasa Indonesia.

The six-month program was attended by eighteen (18) MSU– General Santos City students enrolled in the BIPA 1 program.

MSU-Gensan faculty & staff learn Nihongo

Omerah Maunda

The "Nihongo for Everyone" (NFE Cycle 1) virtual class offered by Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU)-Japanese Studies Program (JSP) to MSU-GSC faculty, staff, and students was officially opened. NFE is a course for beginners that focuses on basic communication skills, both speaking and listening. The course also introduces a basic knowledge of Japanese characters for everyday use in Japan. In addition, when participants/students learn Japanese, they become not only proficient in the language but also gain an insider view of the culture.

The key component to improving staff development and faculty vitality is enhancing professional competence and education. It is acknowledged that all academics and staff, regardless of their function, must possess the necessary skills, knowledge, and competencies if the institution is to succeed. The university understands that its faculty and staff are essential to its success, and a professional, strategic approach to faculty and staff development enables the institution to draw in and keep top-tier participants who possess the knowledge and abilities required to meet its goals. Learning a new language is one approach to help MSU - GSC constituents develop their skills. Among the many advantages of learning a new language include enhanced creativity, memory, and multitasking skills, as well as improved communication. (Telegraph interpersonal

From the viewpoint of the professors and staff, the aforementioned advantages of language acquisition can lead to better advantage to deliver exceptional public service and demonstrate academic prowess.

In connection with this, the MSU - GSC Office of International Affairs, in collaboration with the Japanese Studies Program at Ateneo de Manila University, offers an Online Nihongo for Everyone, in which MSU - GSC academic and staff members will take part. The Ateneo de Manila University is offering a beginner-level course called Nihongo for Everyone online. It emphasizes fundamental communication abilities, speaking and listening. A foundational understanding of Japanese characters for everyday use in Japan is also covered in the course. Additionally, learning Japanese gives you a deeper understanding of the culture in addition to improving your language skills. A major business deal can frequently be made or broken by having an understanding of the Japanese work ethic, their business etiquette, and knowing which cultural faux pas to avoid.

Twenty chosen faculty and staff members from MSU-General Santos will participate in the Nihongo for Everyone class, which is being offered by the Ateneo de Manila University. It is a 10-hour synchronous session (live-streamed lectures) for 10 Saturdays and a 20-hour asynchronous session (online exercises).

Okoye becomes first Nigerian alumnus of MSU-Gensan

Beverly T. Garcia, MPA

With its endeavor of strengthening academic collaboration international linkages, University wishes to congratulate Anthony C. Okoye, hailing from Aba-Abia State, Nigeria making waves as the first-ever alumnus from Nigeria who graduated from MSU-Gensan School of Graduates Studies with a doctoral degree in Philosophy. Anthony started his stint in the Philippines when he took his master's degree at the University of Southeastern Philippines, Davao City, and afterward proceeded to MSU-Gensan to take his doctoral degree.

Okoye also narrated that despite the challenges and struggles brought by the pandemic he was still able to persist and succeed. "I really thought I could not reach this far, being disturbed by the pandemic, and the distance from my family was affecting me but God is so good. I was provided with good people around me, and I am so grateful to MSU-Gensan, to the Administration, and all the very supportive people who surrounded me," said Anthony.

Anthony grew up as a lover of culture, and his ambition to travel to different countries was realized when

he opted to study in Davao. According to him, being around his Filipino friends made him feel at home that also helped him learn Bisaya quickly.

M S through Gensan the Office of the International Affairs (OIA) is mandated to promote and deepen University's international engagements instruction, research, and extension with partner universities through student and faculty exc MSU-Gensan exchange. really keen to be actively involved in improving the quality and capability by way of the international pathway so as to produce graduates who can compete in the global market.



MSU-Gensan, LCDFI spearhead financial literacy program at Balut Island

Anderson V. Villa, PhD

In line with the Memorandum of Agreement signed between the Mindanao State University (MSU) and LandBank Countryside Development Foundation, Inc. (LCDFI), MSU-General Santos Campus under the leadership of Chancellor Dr. Anshari P. Ali successfully conducted the Financial Literacy Program in Balut Island, Municipality of Sarangani of Davao Occidental last December 13-17, 2021.

The Technical Working Group (TWG) was ably represented by its Chair Dr. Anderson Villa together with Dr. Keno Jay Balogbog and Dr. Josh Elish Octura as resource speakers and Mr. Marty Jade Caligdong and Ms. Bea Bernadette Concepcion as Secretariat/

Documenters. The TWG was warmly welcomed by the Municipal Mayor Hon. Virginia T. Cawa and OIC-Municipal Agriculturist Mr. Dyck John A. Camillo with assistance from Mr. Norman Gascon of the Planning Office and team.

The FLP Training of the LandBank of the Philippines and LCDFI targets unbanked municipalities and communities by providing farmers and fisherfolks technical assistance through financial literacy so that they will be educated on the important aspects of making livelihood profitably and to help alleviate their living conditions and offering them opportunities for a satisfactory productive agricultural and coastal life.



ACHIEWERS

Jorgelyn C. Rivera, LPT

MSU-Gensan consistently generates topnotchers and placers on various board exams

The excellent performance of the students on various board exams is something that Mindanao State University-General Santos is particularly proud of. As evidence of its status as "the home of board placers and topnotchers," the University has consistently aced a variety of board exams and generated topnotchers and placers on numerous licensure tests. They have served as an example for the university's commitment to offering top-notch instruction and services.

MSU-Gensan ranks 8th; marks 82.90% passing rate in February 2022 Master Plumber licensure exam

Engr. Willi Gaile O. Taberna (Top 8)

MSU-Gensan logs 68.75% passing rate in February 2022 Mechanical Engineering licensure exam

List of new Mechanical Engineers:

Engr. Alvin Mark Antonio

Engr. Josette Artos

Engr. Wilfred Basilio

Engr. John Erick Lansangan

Engr. Nino Mejias Engr. Jeffrey Palma

Engr. Rudy Christian Romulado

Engr. Saidamen Said

Engr. Jeff Stephen Saligumba

Engr. Jan Michael Vecilles

Engr. Karl Esternberg Zalderiaga

MSU-Gensan marks 89.19% passing rate in April 2022 Electrical engineering licensure exam

List of new Electrical Engineers:

Engr. Nicanor Dizon III

Engr. Earl John Soriano

Engr. Kinjo Cahilig

Engr. Zelvin Lester Divino

Engr. Pithumpry Nobles

Engr. Alan Erle Aniceto

Engr. Jerezon Ordoña

Engr. Megan Gando

Engr. Ryan Lozano

Engr. Rex Julian Bazarr

Engr. Alvenn Kenneth Tutor Engr. Dandy Ram Toyogon

Engr. Nicole Dome John Dino

Engr. Clark Ian Vicencio

Engr. Cedric Cruz

Engr. Keanne Bryhan Jariol

Engr. Allynne Marie Lanzagarita

Engr. Danver Dave Sasi

Engr. Severino Johnrome Usero

Engr. Nessa Marie Barranco

Engr. Fitzgerald Lacar

Engr. Dexter Agustin

Engr. John Philip Quistadio

Engr. Christian Dion Valdez

Engr. Maylene Lastimosa

Engr. Mark Glyndel Caserial

Engr. Arniel Jan Adajar

Engr. Crisel Mark Nuñez

Engr. Harlan Salazar

Engr. Mae Espanto

Engr. Juvie Cayare

Engr. Bernadine Garayanala

Engr. Giovanne Revilla

MSU-Gensan ranks 10th; logs 78.57% passing rate in April 2022 Electronics Engineering licensure exam

List of new Electronics Engineers:

Engr. Abdul Ghaffar U. Tagolanao (Top 10)

Engr. Jovie Ruth Mendoza

Engr. Hamzer Tacbil

Engr. Glerry Boria

Engr. Hyacinth Bren Salazar

Engr. Mariel Tolibas

Engr. Chenie Alsola

Engr. Prospero Dei Cobacha II

Engr. Mary Sheil Sangga

Engr. Wendy Angelou Muldez

Engr. Blaze Perater

MSU-Gensan clinches 29.63% passing rate in May 2022 CPA licensure exam

List of new Certified Public Accountants:

Ryan Angelica Allanic Lowie Jay Caranias

Glez Mic Camporidondo

Clint Dominic Damasco

Edma Glory Macadaag

Blessie Miole

Frances Vanessa Nequinto

Mike Vincent Roncal

MSU-Gensan marks 43.24% passing rate in May 2022 Civil Engineering licensure exam

List of our new Civil Engineers:

Engr. Ellah Adarna

Engr. Jemimah Ella Gacal

Engr. Renvel Rose Gane

Engr. Henry James Hermo

Engr. Ralph Jayson Jamison

Engl. Halpit Jayson Jami

Engr. Annalisa Lodovice

Engr. Keena Madidis

Engr. Faiza Marandang

Engr. Florabelle Masong

Engr. Shiney Klyne Ordeniza

Engr. Dhanica Joy Padios

Engr. Sadic Rasul

Engr. Ruffa Mae Sindol

Engr. Rey Mark Sulan

Engr. Anna Mharize Tano

Engr. Adolf John Tendero



February 2022 Master Plumber Licensure Examination

MSU-Gensan clinches 80.65% passing rate in **August 2022 Mechanical Engineer licensure** exam

List of new registered Mechanical Engineers:

Engr. Anthon Alaveran Engr. Romme Baculio Engr. Yrvin Shem Ca-ay Engr. Earl Jason Cabras Engr. Ian Jasper Canda Engr. Redin Cueva Engr. Mohiddin Daiman Engr. Arnold Dafy Diaz

Engr. Prime Rose Diaz Engr. Kenneth Aujero Fariolan

Engr. Johnriel Frayco

Engr. Chryss Adamme Hallegado

Engr. Cleo Mallyn Hongoy Engr. Blessy Joy Larida Engr. Binije Lemente

Engr. Joshua Loon

Engr. Kim Brian Macaso

Engr. Shaina Musa

Engr. Al Sidrik Paez

Engr. Cathleen Marcy Pido Engr. Markim Sandigan

Engr. Garbar Tuan

Engr. Sam Tucayao Engr. Maireen Uno

Engr. Raffy Rafael Vasaya

MSU-Gensan marks 84.21% passing rate in September **2022 Electrical Engineering licensure exam**

List of new registered Electrical Engineers:

Engr. Junel Abarro

Engr. Marielle Abe

Engr. John Mark Tanzo Abejar

Engr. Catherine Alferez

Engr. Jeromy Antonio

Engr. Jash Kirby Apura

Engr. Joeane Berjes

Engr. Leonil Biñan

Engr. Ace Bodegas

Engr. Patricia Marie Borela

Engr. Johnnerell Camansa

Engr. Chesed Carisma

Engr. Michael John Dingding

Engr. Jerome Eusalina

Engr. Xiel Francis Gadut Engr. Al-Fattah Kasim

Engr. Keza Lanzagarita

Engr. Angelo Lascoña

Engr. Laurence Ledesma

Engr. Denmark Mabao

Engr. Christopher Navarro

Engr. Marc Leoden Rabino

Engr. Stephen Glenn Rodolfo

Engr. Marck Joseph Saligbon

Engr. Michael Santos

Engr. Brendan Aries Sarip

Engr. Jude Martin Seminio

Engr. John Lou Sunio

Engr. Rafael Tan

Engr. Jasper Ursal

Engr. Jayvee Tan Vaporoso

Engr. Renz Adrian Villacampo

MSU-Gensan logs 48.89% passing rate in September 2022 **Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering licensure exam**

List of new engineers:

Engr. Dina Jane Abay-abay

Engr. Franclin Alcala

Engr. Roland Jr Aquino

Engr. Rejeane Arellano

Engr. Jan Kristia Bacerra

Engr. Krisha Mae Barredo

Engr. Rizalito Jr Bartolini

Engr. Mebelle Batac

Engr. Luisa Cassandra Belmonte

Engr. Irish Shari Berbano

Engr. Aira Borja

Engr. Ben Calayon

Engr. Edith Lucia Campos

Engr. Johana Nerie Canedo

Engr. Jaymarl Caparos

Engr. Mariellen Irish Casador Engr. John Kenneth Catipay

Engr. Nerwin Centino

Engr. Jayson Cole

Engr. Joseph Dalama

Engr. Rogin Dave Dante Engr. John Delfee Dayag Engr. Marianne Kyle De Castro Engr. Rommel De Vega

Engr. Clivon Rey Deligero

Engr. Adeen Dima

Engr. Pearl Jane Dinasas

Engr. Marisse Dioquino

Engr. Gerard Distor

Engr. Precy Kaye Distor

Engr. Mariane Joyce Dominguito

Engr. Matthew Albert Dulay

Engr. Ariel Enot Engr. Wendy Claire Fabregar

Engr. Babie Fetalvero

Engr. Bryan Jay Fuentes

Engr. Ashbel Arlie Nicole Garcia

Engr. Rio Marlo Gerolaga

Engr. Kyle Ryan Gonzales

Engr. Azel Kette Ingles

Engr. Rechelle Isaloc

Engr. Julian Javing

Engr. Mojahed Kadon

Engr. Yoshyne Jem Kinjiyo

Engr. Peter Landasan

Engr. Jacob Libo-on Engr. Rio Jane Lucero

Engr. Jhan Maido

Engr. Danica Malima

Engr. Anthony Mansueto

Engr. Jasper Marquez

Engr. Warren Moyong

Engr. Erjune Klynt Murillo

Engr. Edward Novida Engr. Michelle Faye Nunag

Engr. Melkiscendra Nicols Paman

Engr. Rechel Mie Panilagao

Engr. Renz Brianjan Panisa

Engr. Karl Jayvee Jim Presbetero

Engr. Janmel Mark Pugosa

Engr. Justine Marie Revuelta

Engr. Aaron Moh Rillo

Engr. Florence Mae Romarez

Engr. Joshua Sabsal

Engr. Jan Qader Usop Engr. Karl Bryan Villaro

As part of its commitment to fulfilling its mission, Mindanao State University-General Santos has stepped up its efforts and endeavors to maintain a good performance in the board exams. In order to improve responsiveness and relevance in the provision of services, academic support staff is undergoing reform to address the needs of the academic community. This achievement requires hard work and discipline on the part of the faculty as well as the students, but more importantly, the administration ensures that the students receive top-notch education by using every available tool to allocateits resources to enhance the educational facilities.



Engr. Abdul Ghaffar U. Tagolanao

MSU-Gensan successfully administers SASE

Jasmin P. Saricala

2022

On March 6, the Mindanao State University successfully administered its System Admission and Scholarship Examination (SASE). Thousands of hopeful examinees went to the MSU-General Santos Campus and its responsibility test centers to take the examination that will determine their admission and scholarship to the MSU System.

Coordinators, proctors, technical staff, the Medical Services Department, and the Civil Security Unit were all stationed in their designated areas. MSU-GenSan, through its Admissions Office, is in charge of 13 different test centers. MSU-General Santos in Fatima, General Santos City served as the main test center with approximately 4500 examinees.

About 6800 examinees were also catered by the satellite test centers in Koronadal National Comprehensive High School, Koronadal, South Cotabato; Tupi National High School, Tupi, South Cotabato; Libertad National High School, Surallah, South Cotabato; Sta. Cruz Mission School, Inc., Lake Sebu, South Cotabato; Digos City National High School, Digos City, Davao del Sur; Edna Guillermo Memorial National High School, Brgy. Nuing, Jose Abad Santos, Davao Orriental; Kiamba National High School, Kiamba, Saranggani Province; Malapatan National High School, Malapatan, Saranggani Province; Tagum National High School, Tagum City, Davao del Norte; Mariano Peralta National High School, Malita, Davao Occidental; Kidapawan City National High School, Kidapawan City; and Bagangga National High School, Bagangga, Davao Orriental.

The preparation for Mindanao State University- System Admission and Scholarship Examination (MSU-SASE) started last year. However, due to the challenges of the pandemic, the examination schedule was changed several times before it was finally scheduled on March 06, 2022.

In MSU-General Santos Campus, the exam began at 8:00 AM and ended at 3:00 PM. The first batch of examinees took the exam in the morning, followed by the second batch in the afternoon. Family members and supporters of the examinees were also present at the campus, waiting for them to finish the exam.

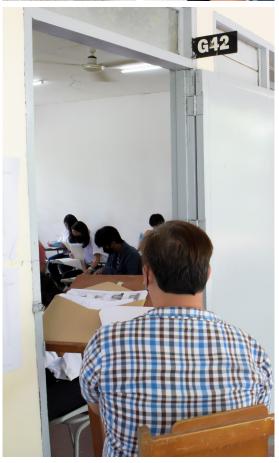
To ensure the health and safety of the examinees, the strictest health protocols of checking body temperature and vaccination card or medical certificate upon entrance to testing rooms, wearing of masks and hand sanitization, among others, were enforced by the Medical Services Department in cooperation with the Civil Security Unit. The examination was also administered in a room of only 25 takers to ensure physical distancing.

Prof. Jerry J. Dela Cruz, Director of the Admissions Office and MSU-GenSan SASE Coordinator, closely monitored the administration of the SASE 2022 in all the responsibility test centers of the University. "To all our SASE 2022 takers we wish you all the best. Hopefully, you'll be able to overcome the SASE. We did our part to facilitate you so that you can have the opportunity to be one of the MSU students in the next school year. Keep fighting for your dreams, because we will also continue to do our part until enrollment time. On behalf of the SASE family, team, task force, and the MSU-GenSan management under the leadership of Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA, and all the Vice Chancellors, we hope to welcome and see you next school year. God Bless everyone!" Prof. Dela Cruz's message for the conclusion of the SASE 2022.

















SHS, MSU-CETD conduct admission tests

Eunece V. Naive

Mindanao State University – General Santos conducted admission tests for its basic education departments on April 23 for Senior High School and April 23-24 for Junior High School.

Mindanao State University – College of Education Training Department (MSU-CETD), the University's Junior

Mindanao State University – College of Education Training Department (MSU-CETD), the University's Junior High School, administered its admission test to 681 examinees from various public and private elementary schools in General Santos City, Sarangani Province and neighboring municipalities of South Cotabato.

A total of 1,699 examinees also took the Senior High School – Admission Test (SHS-AT) at Mindanao State University, Fatima Campus. The test was given to incoming Grade 11 students. The SHS-AT is a two-hour examination with a total number of 180 test items divided into four subject areas: Language Usage, Science, Mathematics, and Social Science conducted in two batches – morning and afternoon sessions. Passers who

meet the cut-off score are admitted to the three academic strands offered, namely: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), Accountancy, Business and Management (ABM) and Humanities and Social Sciences (HUMSS).

Health protocols such as social distancing, wearing of face masks, checking of body temperature, and sanitization were strictly observed by both the examinees and personnel throughout the JHS and SHS examinations. Medical and security frontliners were also stationed throughout the premises to ensure the examinees' safety.

The admission tests were administered under the supervision of the Admissions Office and the administration, faculty and staff of both SHS and MSU-CETD. The tests are conducted annually for all hopeful takers who wish to join the basic education departments of the University.

COM successfully administers entrance exam

Eunece V. Naive & Jorgelyn C. Rivera, LPT

The College of Medicine (COM) administered its entrance examination last April 30, 2022, at the MSU-CETD Campus. The said examination was given to approximately 150 qualified applicants who wish to pursue their medical degree at Mindanao State University – General Santos.

The Civil Security Unit (CSU) and Medical Response and Rescue Team (MRRT) were deployed to ensure the safety of the examinees. Proctors were also present to guarantee the smooth conduct of the examination.

The COM entrance examination was administered under the supervision of the Office of the Vice Chancellor

for Academic Affairs, Admissions Office, Registrar's Office and the administration, faculty, and staff of the College of Medicine. This is the second admission test given by the COM after welcoming its first batch for School Year 2021-2022 last February. Classes have commenced right after through blended learning of limited face-to-face and online modalities.

The College of Medicine is Region 12's first state-funded medical school, established to provide high-quality medical education and training to underprivileged but worthy students, as well as to address the needs of medically underserved areas in the

region. Students who are admitted to the medical program of the University enjoy free tuition and pay only a modest amount for their miscellaneous fees. This is an unprecedented development for the region as state scholars have often been admitted to remote academic institutions to access quality and affordable medical education.

The MSU-General Santos's College of Medicine has brought quality medical education closer to the locale in the hopes of producing competent physicians and medical practitioners trained to provide service to rural and underprivileged communities.





Mindanao State University – General Santos through the Office of International Affairs (OIA) sent off two (2) Senior High School graduates to Indonesia on July 25, 2022 for the Politeknik Piksi Ganesha (PPG) Scholarship Program. The selected grantees were Princess Ruth Mae D. Perez and Nor Aisa B. Abdullah.

Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA congratulated this year's recipients of the full scholarship reassuring the scholars that they will get a high level of assistance and academic direction from the University. He also encouraged them

to learn the Bahasa language and find ways to connect with people from other cultures and backgrounds stressing that it is a skill they can take back home and use for a lifetime. He also remarked that this opportunity can strengthen international linkages and cooperation in gearing towards becoming a National Peace and SMART University. Moreover, in behalf of the management, Chancellor Aragasi generously provided PhP 10, 000-subsidy to each of the scholars to help them start their academic journey in Indonesia.

Also, all accommodation and

transportation from the Philippines to Indonesia, and free lessons for the Bahasa language are just some of the activities that PPG and MSU-Gensan agreed to promulgate as envisioned in its Memorandum of Agreement.

Also present in the sendoff were Director of the Office of International Affairs, Prof. Beverly T. Garcia and MPA Coordinator and former OIA Director, Dr. Anderson V. Villa. Families of the scholarship recipients were also present to bid them farewell and well wishes as they take on an exciting journey overseas.

MSU-Gensan, UE-Manila ink partnership

Eunece V. Naive

Mindanao State University - General Santos through the Mathematics Department entered Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University of the East-Manila through its Mathematics and Statistics Department on June 28, 2022 at the Office of the Chancellor. The MOU between the respective Math Departments of both universities emphasizes on the academic collaboration through the conduct of joint webinars

in Mathematics, joint remote teaching, research and cultural activities, mobility of faculty and students, faculty professional development, sharing or creation of learning materials and resources, and other academic-related endeavors between the two departments.

The MOU signing was attended by Vice-Chancellor for Administration and Finance, Ms. Nurleila G. Canacan who represented Acting Chancellor, JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA,

Campus Secretary, Prof. Norman Ralph B. Isla, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Dean, Dr. Juniven P. Acapulco, Mathematics Department Chairperson Prof. Berlita Y. Disca and MST Coordinator, Dr. Jay D. Buscano.

On the other hand, UE was represented in the MOU signing by the Chairperson of its Mathematics and Statistics Department, Dr. Rodman Manalang.

CMU conducts benchmarking at MSU-Gensan

Mindanao State University – General Santos warmly accommodated the delegates from Central Mindanao University (CMU) on March 25, 2022 for a benchmarking activity in the various offices of the University. particularly on Records and Supply Management.

The delegates were headed by OIC-President and Vice President for Administration Dr. Ronel Sudaria, Director of Services Administrative Haidee Helena Garcia. Director Planning of Development Agbayani, and Director of Digital Transformation Jeremy Capili.

OIC-President extended Sudaria gratitude to the University

for warmly welcoming their delegation. He shared that academic institutions must learn from each other emphasizing that benchmarking is an important engagement to address the challenges and limitations that confounded them.

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Mishell D. Lawas attended the program on behalf of the administration. She expressed her gratitude to the CMU delegation for choosing MSU-Gensan as one of the institutions they considered for benchmarking. VCAA



Lawas further affirmed that the visit serves as an opportunity to stimulate meaningful conversations between the Universities and showcase MSU-Gensan's best practices. Also present were Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Ms. Nurleila G. Canacan and Campus Secretary Prof. Norman Ralph B. Isla.

After the program, the delegates proceeded to the ocular visit in the offices of the University such as the Records Management Office (RMO) headed by Ms. Flordeliza U. Albuladora and Supply Management Office (SMO) headed by Ms. Minerva D. Tomado.

MSU-Naawan benchmarks MSU-Gensan for accreditation

Eunece V. Naive

and Technology Mindanao State University student Naawan conducted an Benchmarking Accreditation Activity at Mindanao State led by SMFT Dean Dr. Dan University - General Santos on February 23, 2022 in preparation for their Preliminary Survey Visit.

activities The were carried out in compliance with the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities of Philippines (AACCUP) suggestion to benchmark the best practices of other Higher Institutions. Education MSU-Gensan shared its best practices and effective operating techniques with MSU-Naawan Fisheries.

Fifteen Delegates from focusing on the parameters the School of Marine Fisheries in different areas such as (SMFT) of curriculum, administration. support, physical facilities, etc.

> The faculty and staff Arriesgado and SMFT Chairperson Kaent Immanuel N. Uba were warmly welcomed by the newly-installed Director of Quality Assurance Management Service Office (QUAMSO) Prof. Ronaldo P. Sombero.

The benchmarking activity also included ocular visit in the offices of the University such as University Library, Quality Assurance Management Service Office, and College of



Volume IV - Issue No.1 **EXCELLENCE**



Seniors' Club holds career seminar, job fair

Eunece V. Naive & Jorgelyn C. Rivera, LPT

Mindanao State University -General Santos Seniors' Club Batch Hiraya Class of 2022 together with the Alumni Relations Office, Office of Students Affairs and Services, and Office of Guidance and Counselling hosted a Career and Personality Development Seminar and Job Fair on June 24, 2022, and June 29, 2022, which took place at Regional Science Research Center and KCC Convention and Events Center.

The event carries the theme. "Expanding Opportunities for Young Professionals Furthering Peace, Culture, and Inclusivity" which aims to equip the graduating students with emerging ideas and trends on how to develop careers and personalities in

the 21st-century context.

During the seminar, Ms. Karla S. Tarcelino, the first resource speaker, lectured about Work Etiquette and Personality Development. stressed that proper grooming and professional appearance are essential to gain not just a positive impression but also respect in the workplace. Important topics such as social media manners and social graces were also included.

Joveth Montaña Mr. introduced participants to the essentials of good technical writing and provided tips for quick, clear, and concise résumé writing. He underlined that a résumé is a crucial tool in the job search since it allows employers to learn more about a candidate's qualifications, abilities,

and experiences.

The third speaker, Mr. Nurhasan A. Juanday, SAO-PESO Manager discussed the New Trends He also further in Employment. explained the functions and programs of the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) which is not just providing job vacancy information but also occupational counseling and orientation, career guidance, job fairs, livelihood training, the Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES), and other programs developed by DOLE.

Moreover, a one-day job fair was also held to provide the upcoming college graduates with employment opportunities. The said activity is part of the Seniors' Club's employment facilitation strategy which aims to facilitate the meeting of job seekers and employers in a single location to save candidates who will graduate from college money, time, and effort in applying.

There were approximately 700 attendees from the College of Social Sciences, Agriculture, Business Administration and Accountancy, Engineering, Fisheries, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and Education. On the other hand, there

were 27 participating employers which include: the Philippine National Police. Avior Hotel. Brokenshire College, Department of Education, Century Pacific Agricultural Ventures, Inc., etc.

Acting Chancellor Usman D. Aragasi, MPA stated in his message that the event is an excellent opportunity for recent graduates and new entrants to the labor market to apply for a position that matches their skills and area of competence.

MSU-Gensan granted by IATF the authority to conduct a face-to-face Job Fair due to its conducive facility and strict observance of health and safety protocols to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

ARO launches Alumni Balik Tambler Assisted Campus Tour

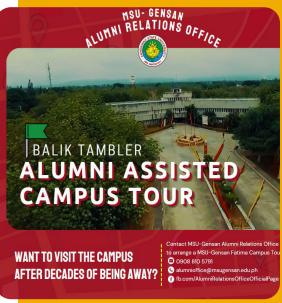
Julie Ann D. Andura

To foster connection and network with the alumni of MSU - GSC, the Alumni Relations Office (ARO) offers alumni service "Alumni Balik Tambler Assisted Campus Tour". This is a program of ARO that caters to the needs of the alumni when paying a visit to the university after decades of being

The Alumni Relations Office accommodated the first guest from Brunei Darussalam, Engr. Nilo Victor Pille, an alumnus from the College of Engineering Batch 1996. He came to visit the university after 26 years of being away to reconnect and revisit the campus where he spent his 5 years as a Mechanical Engineering student.

Engr. Pille and his wife were assisted by the OIC - Director of Alumni Relations Office Ms. Alma Celesthia D. Aguja, together with the ARO staff Ms. Zita S. Puti, and Ms. Julie Ann D. Andura. Among the offices/buildings being visited are the Cultural Affairs Office, Museum, Boys and Girls Dormitory, University Gymnasium, and the College of Engineering.

The College of Engineering, headed by Dean Dr. Noel Gunay and other faculty and staff of the College of Engineering welcome his visit with pride and enthusiasm. Retired ME faculty Prof. Reynaldo T. Celiz was also present during the fellowship lunch hosted by Engr Pille.





The Administrative Staff and Support Services Association (ASSA) inducted its new set of officers on August 26, 2022 at the Conference Room, Administration Building.

The induction was led by Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA. The newly inducted officers are as follows: President-Rhea M. Ayop; Vice President - Elvira F. Pasicolan; Secretary - Juanita J. Calimba; Treasurer - Bernie S. Mendoza; Auditor – Annie Aileen C. Otacan; Business Manager - Julius

B, Evidientes; PIO - Nerio B. Ilisan; Board of Directors - Prescilyn B, Casas and Cheryl D. Dindang.

Through his message, Acting Chancellor Aragasi placed a premium on the significant roles and importance of the administrative staff in the University. Consequently, the acknowledgment was received well by the newly-inducted officers and members of ASSSA. This acknowledgment has even more reinforced and motivated the administrative employees to provide quality service as public servants in accordance with the code of ethics and

ASSSA is a non-profit, service-oriented union representing the rank and file administrative staff of Mindanao State University, General Santos. It was established in 1987 and duly registered with the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). It aims to foster a harmonious relationship with the MSU Management as well as look into the welfare of its well as look into the welfare of its members.

CSC XII awards CNA registration to MSU-Gensan, Faculty Union

Eunece V. Naive

Rules

Civil Service Commission XII visits the University on February 16, 2022 to award the Certificate of Collective Negotiation Agreement (CNA) Registration to the MSU-GenSan Faculty Union and MSU- General Santos.

The CNA entered into by the MSU-Gensan Faculty Union and the MSU- General Santos is pursuant to the Amended

Regulations Governing the Exercise of the Right of Government Employees to Organize. The CNA is registered by the Commission effective March 17, 2021 to March 16, 2024.

The Certificate of Registration was awarded by Director Resurrection P. Pueyo, Regional Director of CSCRO XII and Director Edna C. Nebrija-Mahinay, CSCFO- Saranggani, and received by Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Argasi, MPA and Dr. Mario J. Aguja, President of the MSU-GenSan Faculty Union and MSU-System Faculty Regent.

Acting Chancellor Aragasi emphasized in his speech the importance of the Faculty Union and the MSU- Gensan Management working jointly to benefit the faculty members and whole of the MSU-Gensan community.

"We don't exist for today; we exist for a better tomorrow. And one way of doing it is forging a healthy and developmental relationship with one another," Dir. Pueyo said in his message. He also encouraged all the members of the Union and the Management to work collaboratively with one another and cultivate the potentials both

At the end of the program, Dr. Aguja thanked the MSU-Gensan Management and the officers and members of the Union for their support to comply with the prescribed requirements and the CSC XII for awarding the said certification.

The CSC XII was represented by Director Venus O. Bumanlag, Assistant Regional Director of CSCRO XII; Ms. Evelyn C. Cortez, Div. Chief of Public Assistance and Liaison Division CSCRO XII; Mr. Basilio E. Dafielmoto, Supervising Human Resource Specialist and CSC-PINTIG National President; Director Teresita R. Antolin, CSCRO XII.

To show their full support, Dr. Mishell D. Lawas, VCAA, Ms. Nurleila Canacan, VCAF, Prof. Sheila J. Loable, VCPD, Faculty Union Executive Officers, Board of Directors and members were also present at the event.





Faculty Union installs new set of officers

Jasmin P. Saricala

The MSU-Gensan Faculty Union held the Oath-Taking Ceremony of its newly elected officers on March 17, 2022, at Venue 88 Hotel and Events Place, Mabuhay Rd, General Santos City. The ceremony was officiated by the newly appointed President of the MSU-System, Atty. Basari D. Mapupuno.

The MSU-Gensan Faculty Union is composed of the following list of officers as follows:

Executive Committee:

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The Executive Committee is the governing body of the Union while the Board of Directors is the policymaking body of the union in between General Assemblies. The new set of officers pledged to strongly adhere to the Union's commitment, which is to protect members' rights and promote their general welfare and well-being, as well as to improve the members' economic, social, political, cultural, physical, spiritual, and professional

"As your new system President, I assure you-- MSU-General Santos, its administration, faculty, and students will have my administration's utmost support", President Mapupuno said in his message. At the end of his speech, he congratulated the Faculty Union Officers and MSU-Gensan for the momentous event. He also asked everyone, especially the MSU-Gensan Administration to support him and join him to make MSU System greater and better.

Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA, BOR Secretary Atty. Shidik Abantas, College Deans and Department Chairpersons, and members of the Faculty Union were also present to witness the event.

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MSU-Gensan celebrates Women's Month

Eunece V. Naive & Monlouie M. Sorzano, MA



the Gender and Development (GAD) Office and Center for Women Studies (CWS), organized month-long activities for the 2022 National Women's Month Celebration (NWMC).

On March 8, 2022, the University constituents wearing the official color purple of the NWMC gathered in front of the Administration Building for the opening program of month-long celebration. The event also coincided with the celebration of the International Women's Day. With the active participation of all, GAD and CWS hosted activities such as motorcade, community singing, planting of pinwheels, harana and merienda, and inspirational messages from the top officials headed by Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA.

On March 28, 2022, the program entitled "Babae, MaGADa Ka! Honoring the Beauty of Women Making Change Work" was hosted via Facebook Live. The event served as a celebration and recapitulation of all the University's activities during the National Women's Month. The online event was simultaneously conducted with an intimate program at the

In her opening remarks, GAD Focal Person and Directress of Center for Women Studies Dr. Precy M. Regalado acknowledged and congratulated everyone who supported and joined the various activities organized by GAD. "Today, we will be ending our women's month activities but it doesn't mean that this is the end of everything. I think this is the beginning of our new dreams for gender and development," she also added.

Acting Chancellor Aragasi emphasized that women play an important role in nation-building and that it is just fitting to recognize and acknowledge their contribution to society and to celebrate them every month of March. He also stressed that although there is still a long way to achieve gender equality and inclusivity in our University, the acting chancellor is still looking forward to a more cohesive and diverse University. "Malayo-layo pa ang tatahakin ng GAD para marating natin ang sitwasyon na pantay-pantay ang lahat...wala tayong tinitingnan na biases at discrimination because we accepted the fact that we are all created equally by God," he remarked.

The whole month was lined up with programs and activities that aimed to uplift and empower women, as well as acknowledge their contributions to our society. As part of the celebration, the University recognized the winners of the following competitions:

Lilak-Sulawit: Jingle Writing

Champion - College of Education 1st Runner-up - Senior High School 2nd Runner-up - College of Social Sciences and Humanities

GAD Film Festival 2021: Infomercials

1st Best Film - Senior High School 2nd Best Film- College of Engineering 3rd Best Film – College of Agriculture 4th Best Film - College of Education Training Department Best in Story - Senior High School Best in Editing and Best in Animation - Senior High School Best in Sound Design - College of Engineering

#PurpleFriday Photo Competition

Best Photos (Week 1)

Alumni Relations Office & Cultural Affairs Office Physical Education Department

The online program also featured a variety of games that entertained the FB Live participants such as Zoom-ed in Challenge, Who is She? and Bring Me. Prior to the online culmination program, GAD also prepared various activities such as the #PurpleStyle: Free Haircut and Basic Grooming Demonstration for interested employees of the university. The Medical Services Department and College of Medicine also co-organized a Webinar on Menopause last March 10. Likewise, the Office of Guidance and Counseling conducted a Women's Mental Health Webinar last March 25.

Best Photos (Week 2)

College of Education Training Department College of Agriculture School of Graduate Studies

Best Photos (Week 3)

College of Agriculture Accounting Office College of Fisheries College of Education Training Department

Best Photos (Week 4)

Physical Education Department College of Agriculture University Library

Overall, the month-long festivity brought a lot of activities that celebrated women within and beyond the University. The annual Women's Month celebration aims to emphasize the invaluable role of women in nation-building and how they have been an instrument for positive change in society. The GAD Office and CWS of MSU-General Santos aimed to contribute to this by initiating programs and activities that broaden the discourse and campaign for greater awareness of women empowerment and gender equality.

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MSU @ 61, hosts Rawaten Cultural Gala

Raydan M. Tangwayan, LPT

September 1, 2022 was the 61st Founding Anniversary of the Mindanao State University. At the MSU Main Campus in Marawi City, eleven campuses were enjoined to participate in the Rawaten Cultural Gala. The event featured the rich culture and arts of the MSU campuses through a vibrant showcase of songs, dances, fashion and a variety of other talents.

In his message, MSU President Atty. Basari D. Mapupuno emphasized the prosperity of culture and arts the entire MSU System has to offer. He proclaimed that under his watch MSU will boost the promotion of culture and arts through various programs and projects, the Rawaten

Cultural Gala being one of them and poised to be conducted regularly along with other cultural showcases. He also encouraged everyone to relish in the festivities of the founding anniversary as the University has prepared a lot of activities for everyone to participate in.

Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA, led the delegation from the MSU General Santos to the ceremony. The teachers for the Fundamentals of Peace Education were also present led by Dr. Mario J. Aguja, Faculty Regent of the MSU System.

As the campuses sent their delegations, bringing their own cultural showcases, the Dimaporo Gymnasium was filled with resounding cheers

and yells from the spectators. The first to perform was GenSan's representative - the Kabpapagariya Ensemble (KE). The KE performed IP dances, theatrical pieces, and original songs like Matutum, Eiyayy, and Layag SOCKSARGEN which was transformed to Layag MSU to fit the founding anniversary celebration, chanting for the University to continue touching the lives of people in Mindanao, Sulu, and Palawan.

Prof. Romeo F. Narvaez served as the Artistic Director of the KE performances, with the help of Ms. Rochelle Claire P. Baliong, KE Coordinator, and under the auspices of Ms. Alma Celesthia D. Aguja, DM., Cultural Affairs Director.

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CHED-IDIG Peace Project immerses peace educators in community extension, exchange activity

Jasmin P. Saricala

The Mindanao State University—General Santos City through its 2021 Commission on Higher Education — Institutional Development and Innovation Grant (CHED-IDIG) Peace Project, entitled "Synergizing Peace and Global Citizenship Policy Agenda as Trajectory to Realizing Peace University in Southern Philippines," was concluded through a community extension and learning exchange activity in various conflict-affected areas in the cities of Cotabato, Iligan and Marawi, and the Province of Maguindanao on August 30 to September 4, 2022.

The Faculty Community Extension and Exchange is part of the Capacity Building and Exchange component of the project, which aims to immerse peace educators who teach Fundamentals of Peace Education (FPE101) in conflict-affected and vulnerable areas in the Southern Philippines. In particular, it seeks to collect, in the form of case studies, the conflict-related narratives of residents and vulnerable areas for inclusion in the FPE101 courses. Twenty-seven (27) university peace educators were the participants who will write their respective case studies.

The capacity-building activity started with the visit to the 601st Infantry Brigade Headquarters at Brgy Kamasi, Ampatuan, Maguindanao. Discussions were held between the MSU– GenSan City and 601st Infantry Brigade Team led by Brigade Commander Col. Oriel L Pangcog INF (GSC) PA. The 601st Infantry Brigade Team presented their area of observation, including the SPMS Box and the current peace and order situation.

The participants also headed to the Municipality of Mamasapano, Maguindanao. Mamasapano became famous globally because of the death of the SAF 44, which nearly spoiled the Bangsamoro Peace Process. The team was warmly welcomed by Municipal Administrator Hadja Bai Rebecca A. Ampatuan, Municipal Councilors, and Brgy. Captains of the municipality. They discussed the peace and order condition of Mamasapano and the impact of what happened to SAF44 on the municipality after five (5) years.

To end day one of the activity, MSU- GenSan City Team visited the BARMM Ministry of Public Order and Safety. Mr. Windel P. Diangcalan, Director of the Technical Management Service, BARMM-OCM; Atty. Anna Tarhata S. Basman, BTA Member; and Mr. Abdulrahman M. Macapendeg, Planning Officer, BARMM Ministry of Public Order and Safety, headed the discussion on BARMM's flagship programs, the status of implementation of the peace agreement in BARMM, and prospects for strengthening peace and development in territories outside the BARMM.

On the second day, the MSU-



Gensan City Team visited Darapanan MILF Administrative Camp in Darapanan, Kudarat, Maguindanao. team was welcomed by Minister Akmad Ebrahim, Ministry of MENRE, BARMM; Commander Yacob Gumader, Brigade BIAF-MILF, Commander, Commander Abdulgafur, Operational Commander, Task Force Darapanan; and Commander Sima Bayao, Camp Commander, Camp Darapanan. The visit primarily discussed the decommissioning process under the normalization track of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) forged between the government and MILF, which aims to help former combatants transform into peaceful and productive citizens. The Camp Darapanan Team also shared the assistance program they received from the government and their aspirations for their family and for the BARMM after the decommissioning.

On the third day of the activity, the MSU– GenSan City Team went to MSU– Marawi to join the celebration of the 61st Founding Anniversary of the MSU System. The team also witnessed the Luncheon and Memorandum of Understanding Signing between the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and MSU System, represented by Mr. Winston Aylmer Camarinas, and Pres. Basari D. Mapupuno, respectively. The celebration ended with a Rawaten Cultural Gala where the cultural performing group of the 11 campuses of the system showcased the cultural performances unique to their respective campuses.

On the fourth day, the team visited ground zero or the most affected area during the Marawi Siege. They observed the latest and ongoing development in the area as well as the remaining ruins of the siege. The team also headed to Meranaw Cultural Heritage Center, MSU– Marawi. Prof. Sorhaila Latip-Yusoph, Director of the Meranaw Cultural Heritage Center, and Dr. Johara Alangca-Azis, Director of the Meranaw Language Program, shared the various programs and activities of the

office for the conservation and promotion of Meranaw. Dr. Acram A. Latiph, Executive Director of the MSU– Marawi Institute for Peace and Development in Mindanao (IPDM), was also present to discuss their role during and after the siege and share different narratives behind the Marawi Siege.

On the last day, the MSU–GenSan City Team visited MSU–IIT IPDM to discuss the role and challenges of MSU–IIT during the Marawi Siege. The conversation was led by Dr. Mark Anthony Torres, Director of the MSU–IIT IPDM, and Dr. Cesar G. Demayo, Coordinator of MSU–IIT IPDM. The efforts and best practices in teaching FPE101 and future plans for partnerships between MSU–GenSan City and IIT IPDM were also discussed during the conversation.

After the conversation, the team visited the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Evacuation Center in Saguiran, Lanao Del Sur. Various IDPs shared their experiences during the Marawi Siege and the impact of the prolonged displacement on their lives. The Marawi IDPs aspire for a safe and dignified return to their houses.

The participants will compile case studies on the IDPs' pre-Marawi siege circumstances, recollections of the conflict, their challenges throughout it, its aftermath, and its endeavors for rehabilitation and peacebuilding. The participant reflections are intended to offer essential insights for preventing and countering the resurgence of violent extremism in the area, which will be used as contextualized learning resources for the FPE 101 learning modules.

The activity gives peace educators the chance to explore, examine and expose the assumptions, attitudes, knowledge, and experiences of those who are victims of atrocities, war, and violence.

The project was facilitated by Prof. Mario J. Aguja as the Project Leader, with the Study Leaders, namely: Prof. Berlita Y. Disca, Prof. Jovar G. Pantao, Prof. Ma. Theresa P. Pelones, and Prof. Lolymar J. Reyes.

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Newly designated administrative officials take on posts

Engr. Joshua Marvin Noval

Eleven faculty and staff of Mindanao State University-General Santos City were designated to various university administrative offices to take charge of achieving limitless excellence for the University. In the exigency of public service and to streamline the operations of the multiple offices, these faculty and staff shall perform their inherent duties, functions, and responsibilities.

Prof. Shiela J. Loable, MS, was appointed as the Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development by SO # 117-22C. Prof. Loable started working at the University in 2007. In April 2019, she was designated as the Senior High School department director. She was later appointed as the OIC-Director of the Planning, Evaluation and Monitoring Office (PEMO) in concurrent capacity as Budget Officer before being designated by the MSU System President as the Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development (VCPD), given the approval of the creation of the Office of VCPD during the 257th Meeting of the Board of Regents.

On January 12, 2022, Ms. Nurleila G. Canacan, CPA, MPA, was delegated as the OIC-Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance under SO # 019-22C. In 1984, she graduated from the University with a BSBA degree in Accounting. She passed the licensure examination for CPA in 1985 and got her Master's degree in Public Administration in 2021. She served as the Campus secretary under Chancellor Moner Bajunaid, and in 1993, she became head of the Accounting Office and was later assigned to the Internal Audit Office in 1997. In 2019, she was transferred back to the Accounting Office and then was designated as the OIC-VCAF. In line with the vision of becoming a SMART University, the OVCAF envisions automating financial and administrative processes.

After the designation of Ms. Canacan, Ms. Genoveva R. Bilao, by SO # 020-22C, was appointed as the OIC of the Accounting Office. She finished her BS in Accounting at the University of Mindanao, Davao City. Bilao dedicated her career to the University for more than four decades working in the Management Office, now Internal Audit Office, before being assigned to the Accounting Office in 1997 until now. The accounting office is planning on computerized accounting and payroll system and will continue working diligently and effectively.

Prof. Norman Ralph B. Isla, MA, was appointed as the Campus Secretary under SO # 047-22C. Prof. Isla graduated with a degree AB English

major in Linguistics and Literature as Cum Laude in 2013. He was hired as a faculty member of the University's English Department on June 3 of the same year. In 2016, he was assigned as Academic Head in the Senior High School Department and was elected as Department Chairperson of the English Department in 2019. Prof. Isla was personally asked by Acting Chancellor Aragasi to be designated as the University Secretary and, up to this date, continues to work and support the chancellor's plans. Also, under the Office of the Chancellor, Ms. Rhea M. Ayop, MBM, was designated as the Senior Executive Assistant by virtue of SO #074-22C on January 31, 2022.

Under SO #088-22C, Alma Celesthia Dumalag-Aguja, DM, was designated as the Alumni Relations Office Director. Four other directors were also appointed: Prof. Randy P. Asturias, D.Eng. – Physical Plant Division (PPD), Prof. Rhumer S. Lañojan- Office of Student Affairs and Services (OSAS), Prof. Ronaldo P. Sombrero, MS – Quality Assurance Management Services Office (QuAMSO), and Ms. Jean D. Bergante, MS – Senior High School (SHS) Department.

Aguja finished her Master's degree in Business Management in 2015 at this University and her Doctorate in Human Resource Management at the Ateneo de Davao University this year. She started working at the University in 1991 as a Kabpapagariya Ensemble Coordinator. To date, she is the Director of the Cultural Affairs Office, managing institutional events such as local cultural festivals and concurrent Director of the Alumni Relations Office. The office's goal is to cultivate productive relationships with the alumni to enhance the relevance of alumni engagement and their contribution to the betterment of the University and the community.

Prof. Asturias is a faculty member and former department chairperson of the Civil Engineering Department of the College of Engineering. He obtained his Doctor of Engineering degree major in Civil Engineering in 2014. Asturias started his career at the University as Assistant Professor in June 1996. He is a multi-awarded professor winning the Natatanging Guro award by the MSU-GSC Faculty Union three times. His designation as the PPD Director was under SO # 034-22C on January 18, 2022. Now, the PPD Office aims to realize the goal of the University to become a SMART University.

Under SO #445-22C last June 27, Prof. Lañojan was designated as the OIC-Director of OSAS. In 2005,

he started working at the University as a Laboratory Technician in the Science Department, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. He passed the Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET) in 2014 and then was assigned to MSU-CETD to teach Mathematics. He finished his Master of Arts major in General Education and completed the academic requirements for Master of Science in Teaching High School Mathematics at MSU-Gensan Graduate School. Currently, he is working on a dissertation for his Doctor of Education major in Educational Management at the University of Mindanao, Davao City.

Ms. Jean D. Bergante was appointed as Director of the Senior High School Department by SO # 102-22C on February 16, 2022. Bergante earned her Master of Science in Mathematics from Mindanao State University- Iligan Institute of Technology under ASTHRDP-DOST scholarship grant. She started working at the University in July 2016 as a Senior High School Faculty. Before being appointed as the director, she served the department as the Student Account Coordinator, SHS Registrar, Book-in-charge, and Academic Head.

The new QuAMSO Director, Prof. Sombrero, has worked at the University for over 37 years. He was designated as the Admissions Director from 2005 to 2007. He served as the Dean of the College of Fisheries in 2008 when he launched the COF Review Center and the Association of College of Fisheries Alumni (ACOFA). He graduated with his Master's degree in Fisheries(Aquaculture) at UP Visayas. To date, he is a faculty member of the Aquaculture Department and is their college's Academic Promotion Panel (APP) representative.

By virtue of SO# 244-21C, Prof. Sammielyn S. Lavente was appointed as the Sports Manager under the Sports Development Office of the University. She finished her Bachelor's degree in Physical Education (major in Sports and minor in Dance) at Mindanao State University - Marawi in April 2009. She got her Master's degree in Education in Physical Education after graduating in 2018 from Holy Cross Davao College. She has been a faculty member of the University teaching Physical Education from 2009 to the present.

The newly appointed officials are expected to perform their functions in their respective offices and help the university in the fulfillment of its vision, mission, and goals.

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MSU-Gensan conducts vaccination drive

Eunece V. Naive

As the university prepared for the resumption of face-to-face classes, Mindanao State University – General Santos conducted its school-based COVID-19 vaccination for students, dependents, faculty and staff on August 30, 2022 at the University Gymnasium.

The COVID-19 Vaccination Drive was facilitated

The COVID-19 Vaccination Drive was facilitated by the University's administration led by the Medical Services Department (MSD) and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development (OVCPD), working in collaboration with the LGU-General Santos and the Brgy. Fatima Urban Health Center.

All of those who received their dose of the

All of those who received their dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and booster shots wish to extend their sincerest gratitude to all of the participating offices, government units and medical frontliners and volunteers for making the vaccination drive possible.

MSU-Gensan joins CHEDRO 12's celebration of ASEAN's 55th Founding Anniversary

Beverly T. Garcia, MPA

Mindanao State University - General Santos joined the CHEDRO 12 in commemoration of the 55th Founding Anniversary of ASEAN highlighted with the ASEAN EXPO 2022 activity on September 20-22, 2022 at the KCC Convention Center, Koronadal City, South Cotabato.

MSU-Gensan was represented by the Office of International Affairs (OIA) which also joined the exhibit showcasing the internationalization activities of the university in the following areas: Research, Extension, Student and Faculty scholarships/internships and knowledge sharing through trainings, seminars and webinars.

The theme of the ASEAN Celebration, "ACT, Addressing Challenges Together" aims to build an ASEAN for the people and ensure excellent higher education standard for all people across the region.

CHEDRO 12's Regional Director, Dr. Nelia A. Aliben, officiated the ribbon cutting along with CHEDRO 12 officials, Dr. Zoraydah Panawidan and Ms. Annabelle Dafielmoto to mention a few. Presidents and representatives of the different HEIs also witnessed the ceremonial activity.

The exhibit showcased the internationalization initiatives and programs of the eight participating public and private HEIs from Region 12.



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About the Cover



After two years of postponement due to the restrictions caused by the pandemic, MSU-Gensan successfully conducted the in-person 43rd Commencement Exercises. This is a historical moment for the University as 3, 111 graduates have finally marched the academic halls and received their diplomas.

In this issue, we commemorate the success of MSU-Gensan, its students above all, as we have withstood what is deemed to be one of the greatest threats to education. Due to the challenges in the efficient learning of the students, the pandemic may have debilitated the vigor and tenacity of every MSUan; however, it is in our innate ability to be resilient in traversing the path of excellence.

We respond to the now normal by seizing every opportunity and discovering new thresholds to become a more active and responsive University. We have steadily moved forward and stepped up our efforts and initiatives to cater the demands of the education today. Once championed, whatever comes along the way can be conquered.





