

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY - GENERAL SANTOS

# EXCELLENCE

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## WE EMPOWER MINDANAOANS

The Chancellor's take on MSU-GenSan's Mission



# INSIDE

In this issue, we bring to you stories from MSU-General Santos as we continue to uphold our mission of empowering every Mindanaoan. In every accomplishment, in every plan, in every vision we have in the University, we dedicate them to the people of Mindanao who have always inspired us to strive for **EXCELLENCE**.

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## On Breaking New Grounds

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MSU-GenSan celebrates several milestones including cultural events, anniversary celebrations, and sports competitions. These celebrations help build a sense of community and pride in the University. WW





## MSU – GENSAN INAUGURATES COM'S INFIRMARY, LIBRARY BUILDINGS

Romeo Tejada

Mindanao State University – General Santos City officially inaugurated the College of Medicine's Infirmary and Library buildings at the MSU-CETD grounds last March 27, 2023, with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in attendance for the turnover of said buildings.

Dr. Edwin C. Alconcel, the Dean of the College of Medicine formally commenced the historical event emphasizing that the turnover of these buildings will help the college realize its mandate of providing the best medical education to its students. Thereafter, Engr. Teody R. Galang of DPWH-South Cotabato's 1st District Engineering Office read the project profiles of the Infirmary and Library buildings which were completed last December 2022 and February 2023 respectively.

MSU-GenSan Acting Chancellor, JD. Usman D. Aragasi, MPA, together with Engr. Jonathan G. Bantug, District Engineer, inked the documents, duly concurred and witnessed by Hon. Loreto "Tonton" B. Acharon, Representative of the Lone District of General Santos City and COM's Dean, Dr. Edwin C. Alconcel, along with the University's officials and the COM's faculty and staff.

Hon. Acharon in his turnover speech acknowledged the efforts of the Former Congresswoman, Shirlyn Bañas-Nogales who initiated the crafting of the bill in support of the COM and expressed his support for the initiatives of the University toward upgrading its medical education.

The honorable Congressman then pledged to exert all efforts to pass an appropriation bill that will seek to augment funds for the development of the college. He also remarked on the significance of the newly turned-over buildings. "Let us be reminded that these structures are not only for the institution that we desire for the students to study and potentially graduate...these structures are for the community that we serve," he added.

Acting Chancellor Aragasi accepted the project documents and the ceremonial key and expressed his gratitude to those who supported the establishment and operation of the College of Medicine. "I sincerely accept the responsibility to make these assets of the university more responsive and we will do everything to maximize its usefulness for the students, faculty, and other constituents," he remarked. Additionally, he emphasized the shared

success between the local government and the University and manifested a commitment to upholding a strong and mutually advantageous relationship with stakeholders.

After the ceremonial ribbon cutting and a tour of the buildings, the ceremony ended with a message from the Associate Dean of the College of Medicine, Dr. Analyza Galia-Gabuay. Also present during the event are Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development, Prof. Sheila J. Loable, OIC-Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, Ms. Nurleila G. Canacan, OIC-Director of the Institute for Peace and Development in Mindanao, Dr. Mario J. Aguja, Campus Secretary, Prof. Norman Ralph B. Isla, college deans, office directors, COM faculty, staff, and students.

The College of Medicine is the first state-funded medical school in Region XII and is poised to produce medical practitioners who will address the challenged healthcare system of underprivileged communities of the locality. Through these newly inaugurated buildings and their state-of-the-art pieces of equipment, the college has leveled up its mission of providing excellent medical education to its pioneering batch and the succeeding ones to come.



# MSU – GENSAN LAUNCHES CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY STUDIES IN SOCCSKSARGEN, NAMES NEW VCRE

| Engr. Irene Lara M. Abad, MS



Mindanao State University – General Santos, through the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension (OVCRE), launched the Center for Biodiversity Studies in SOCCSKSARGEN (CBSS) and named the newly designated VCRE, Dr. Jaime A. Namocatcat.

Dr. Edna P. Guevarra, outgoing VCRE, proposed the CBSS in 2018 with the support of the Department of Budget and Management through the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Region XII. The second center, built under her legacy, aims to provide an avenue for state-of-the-art research

to investigate various critical issues concerning SOCCSKSARGEN's indigenous flora and fauna, and ecosystems.

The establishment will pave the way for identifying and protecting critically-endangered plant and animal species and conserving terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, especially those that thrive in the Mount Matutum Protected Landscape (MMPL), Allah Valley Protected Landscape (AVPL), and the Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape (SBPS).

Aside from announcing the new VCRE, Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA, also named the new

Research Director, Dr. Christine Dawn G. Obemio, and the new Extension Director, Dr. Jay D. Buscano, during the event.

The ceremony was graced with the presence of honored guests – NEDA Region XII Director Teresita Socorro C. Ramos, MMPL Protected Area Superintendent Efren C. Hibaler, SBPS Protected Area Superintendent Joy C. Ologuin, AVPL Assistant Protected Area Superintendent Lei Ann M. Acuña, DENR XII Representative Dr. Cesar A. Guevarra, and Acting Provincial Director of DOST in Sarangani Province and General Santos City Forester Nabil A. Hadji Yassin.

# MSU – GENSAN ACTIVATES ANALYTICAL FOOD TESTING LABORATORY

| Renan B. Gubalane



Acting Chancellor, JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA (in barong), DA-ACEF representative, Ms. Mara Shyn N. Valdeabella-Pacunana (in the middle), and the faculty from the CNSM pose for photos during the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Analytical Food Testing Laboratory.

Mindanao State University – General Santos held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to launch the newly established Analytical Food Testing Laboratory last October 18, 2022, at the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (CNSM) Complex.

The facility, granted by the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) under the Agricultural Competitiveness and Enhancement Fund (ACEF), aims to provide affordable and certified microbiological services to the region to continue technical support to agro-industries and boost their growth as a business.

Dr. Remedios S. Flamiano, one of the proponents of the project,

comprehensively presented the project's terminal report in the presence of the MSU GenSan officials, Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi MPA, VCRE Dr. Edna P. Guevarra, OIC-VCAF Nurleila G. Canacan, VCAA Dr. Mishell D. Lawas, CNSM Dean Dr. Juniven C. Acapulco, Science Department Chairperson Dr. Thucydides L. Salonga, some faculty members of the Science Department, OVCRE staff and guests from the DA-ACEF namely, Mara Shyn N. Valdeabella-Pacunana (Executive Assistant) together with the technical assistants: Niña Mae G. Talaro, Gian Carlo R. Espiritu, and Kenny Bryalle B. Mendez.

The DA-BAR's OIC Director, Dr. Sailila E. Abdula, virtually extended his gratitude and support to the university and hoped that the enhanced and

upgraded Microbiology Laboratory will be sustainable to cater to the microbiological analysis of regions' food, feeds, and other agribusiness products. He added that the facility is proof that the agriculture and fishery research for development (R4D) will prosper as long as all the concerned sectors work together.

Moreover, another DA-ACEF-funded project entitled "Upgrading of Banana Tissue Culture Facility of MSU-General Santos" was presented by Prof. Jeanette B. Madas, a faculty member of the Science Department.

The project seeks to upgrade the banana tissue-culture facility of Mindanao State University as an institutional response to the growing demand for tissue-cultured saba seedlings in Region XII. It is expected to be launched by 2023.





# UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES BANANA TISSUE CULTURE LABORATORY

| Mark Ivan M. Caro



DOST-PCIEERD's Executive Director, Dr. Enrico C. Paringit, highlights the importance of intelligent systems in his talk.

## MSU – GENSAN INSTALLS INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS LABORATORY

| Renan B. Gubalane

March 1, 2023, marked a new chapter for the university, especially for the College of Engineering for launching its newly installed Intelligent Systems Laboratory (ISL) made possible through the 5-million pesos worth of Institution Development Program (IDP) grant of the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD).

The ISL aims to spearhead MSU-General Santos' research activities to develop intelligent systems that incorporate human intelligence into applications handled by machines. In addition, the facility will provide an avenue to increase the university's research outputs in S&T fields, continuously promote and improve the research activities of the College of Engineering, and encourage collaboration among faculty members and students of the university and other higher education institutions in the region.

DOST-PCIEERD, in its visit, reported that the research laboratory is equipped with state-of-the-art research equipment, including simulation software, programmable logic controllers, 3D printers, and robotic systems.

The event was graced by DOST-PCIEERD's Executive Director Dr. Enrico C. Paringit, Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension Dr. Jaime A. Namocatcat, College of Engineering Dean Dr. Noel S. Gunay, ISL Project Leader Dr. Cristina A. Dadula, other university officials, staff, and guests from the DOST Central Office.

In response to the demand for disease-free and high-quality banana produce, Mindanao State University-General Santos with the Department of Agriculture officially launched the 5-million peso Banana Tissue Culture Laboratory housed in the University last March 30, 2023.

The OVCREI, through Research Director Dr. Christine Dawn G. Obemio, kicked off the event by emphasizing her take on the realization of the facility which would further enhance the knowledge and skills of farmers in adopting environmentally-smart farming practices. She remarked, "This was a dream years ago. Now we have the realization of our dream and I am sure that this banana tissue facility will really help our farmers especially here in Region XII."

Ms. Jeanette B. Madas, one of the project proponents, highlighted the significance of the facility to serve the banana processing industries and local farmers to have good quality saba planting materials, consequently offering more opportunities for economic gains among farmers. Also, the facility will be an arm for research and development, accessible to researchers, undergraduate, and graduate students.

Acting Chancellor, JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA expressed his gratitude to those who supported the establishment of the laboratory facility and shared the importance of forging partnerships with various institutions. "I keep on reminding everyone that MSU-GenSan is encouraging more collaborations in all government offices. Engagement with the local farmers would widen the scope of extension projects of the university for sustainable food security and production in our region." He added that one of the benefactors of the program is the members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) who will receive training courses on smart farming practices, pest control, and strategic marketing that will

help alleviate the economic status of the former combatants as part of the peace efforts of the government.

The ceremony was graced with the presence of honored guests – DA-ACEF Monitoring Team, Engr. Niña Mae Talaro and Engr. Kenny Bryalle Mendez, Mr. Wilson Viloria II, Hannah Lumbao, Jeffrey Dela Cruz, Fema Agustin, Novelyn Corpuz, Maria Gina Turmila, Melrose Kate Embiado, Edgar Allan Pasaol, Nelly Ylanan, Engr. Novelyn Corpuz, Maria Gina Q. Turbila, Melrose Kate Embiado, OIC Engr. Irma Rodis, Mr. Camilo S. Montefalcon, Karen Mae Bacanlao, South Cotabato Provincial Agriculturist, Dr. Raul Teves, CNSM Dean, Dr. Juniven P. Acapulco, other University officials, and representatives.

The Banana Tissue Culture Laboratory under the Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Program of the Science Department, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was funded by the Department of Agriculture through its Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (DA-ACEF) Research and Development – Research Facilities Development 2020 headed by Dr. Remedios S. Flamiano, Dr. Jaime A. Namocatcat, and Ms. Jeanette B. Madas.



Research Director Dr. Christine Dawn G. Obemio delivers the Opening Remarks during the launching of the Banana Tissue Culture Laboratory



## BFAR XII TURNS OVER 2.5 MILLION PESOS MULTI-SPECIES HATCHERY TO MSU-GENSAN

| Scottie C. Jabon

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) XII held the turn-over ceremony and launching of the of the Multi-Species Hatchery to Mindanao State University-General Santos at the MSU College of Fisheries Laboratory and Research Station in Brgy. Seguil, Bawing, General Santos City, Philippines, on Wednesday, May 10, 2023.

The faculty and staff from the College of Fisheries proposed the hatchery project to the BFAR National. This aims to provide additional learning facilities to the increasing number of fisheries students while also promoting the sustainable development of aquaculture in the country and the region's fisheries sector.

The facility intends to produce fingerlings of Sex Reverse Tilapia, Red Tilapia, Pompano, Bangus, Hito, Danggit, Lapu-Lapu, and Vannamei as an auxiliary source of quality fry and fingerlings in the region. With the construction of two four-by-four, ten rectangular, and eight circular culture tanks and the increase in fish demand, the multi-species hatchery is expected to provide millions of species of fry.

BFAR XII Regional Director Usop D. Pandaliday Jr. shared his aspiration that the MSU-GenSan management would take the helm for the facility and guaranteed them the Bureau's support in this undertaking. He also emphasized the significance of the hatcheries as the backbone of aquaculture and the need to maximize production through artificial breeding. Acting Chancellor, JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA also commended the BFAR for its support and the previous leaders of the University for obtaining a strategic area for aquaculture.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was led by Dir. Pandaliday and Acting Chancellor Aragasi, together with some MSU-GenSan officials, the College of Fisheries faculty and staff, BFAR XII, and partners from the aquaculture industry.

The launching of the facility is a significant milestone that will contribute to the region's and country's food security and fish productivity.



## MSU-GENSAN HOUSES ICEBOX: TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS INCUBATOR FOR STARTUPS IN REGION XII

| Erika Mae Espejo, MSc



Participants of the 3rd day of Unboxing Series of ICEBox pose for photos after a day's worth of knowledge sharing on business incubation and technopreneurship, March 29 at Robinsons Mall Atrium.

ICEBOX: A DOST-assisted TBI for Smart Systems Innovations, one of its kind in Region XII, is housed at MSU-General Santos.

Along with 15 other HEI Readiness for Innovation and Technopreneurship - 2.0 universities, the University signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of Science and Technology Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST PCIEERD) at the 6th TBI Summit during the Philippine Startup Week held at the Blue Leaf Events Pavilion, Taguig City, last November 16, 2022. ICEBOX was then officially launched in a project induction ceremony last February 7, 2023, at the Regional Science and Research Center (RSRC) of MSU-GenSan.

Promoting technopreneurship and innovation in the region, ICEBOX has since initiated programs and supported various activities for business incubation. Its kick-off event last March 7, 2023 at AVR, University Library featured an exclusive mentoring session with Mr. Prim Paypon of Asian Institute of Management-Dado Banatao Incubator. The mentoring session was centered around the topic of "The Art of Filipino Dreamengineering" and insights into how a single dream may lead to great innovation that can transform people's lives. The session emphasized the value of taking calculated risks, persistence, and standing up to failures particularly addressed to entrepreneurs and innovators seeking to establish their brand in the global marketplace.

Continuing the momentum of the mentoring session, ICEBOX proceeded to its three-part unboxing series. In a run last March 21, 2023 at the RSRC, resource speakers, Engr. Diogenes Pascua, Professor at Head Center Entrepreneurship and Technology of the University of Science and Technology of the Philippines and Dr. Franch Maverick Lorilla, Director of Innovation Centers and TBI Manager of CDObites highlighted the power of design thinking and value proposition canvas to create impactful solutions. They provided an activity for attendees to gain practical insights, exchange ideas, and network with like-minded students at MSU-GenSan. The event showcased the importance of user-centric approaches and collaborative problem-solving, from identifying customer needs to creating compelling value propositions.

The unboxing series culminated last March 29, 2023, at the Robinsons Mall Atrium. Dr. Noel S. Gunay, Project leader, and the Dean of the College of Engineering gave an overview and history of the ICEBOX. He explained that successful businesses featured in Forbes Magazine are startups and are mainly ICT-based innovations. There are problems faced by society and innovative solutions and startups are proven effective in resolving them, generating wealth out

of bright ideas. Mainly, the objective of ICEBOX according to Dr. Gunay is to "provide all necessary support and resources to transform [one's] idea into [one's] prototype which is [one's] solution, and then lead to a successful business venture."

Representing Hon. Lorelie G. Pacquiao, Mr. Francis Canlas, the Executive Assistant for the Information Communications and Technology Division (ICTD) of the City Mayor's Office formally welcomed everyone to the event and emphasized the collaboration of various stakeholders to materialize the program. "This is a great opportunity to learn and grow with like-minded individuals who are passionate about technology and innovation," he remarked.

Ms. Timmy De Jesus, the Chief Operations Officer of Payruler, and Mr. Eddie Ybanez, the Chief Executive Officer of the DX Form served as the guest speakers of the said event, sharing their knowledge and success stories in technology and innovation as successful startup founders. They shared various startups and gave pieces of advice on how to become successful technopreneurs, project pitchers, and innovators.

Ms. Erika Mae A. Espejo, MSc, TBI Manager answered all questions raised by the attendees and highlighted that ICEBOX is a platform that initiates innovation and technopreneurship. She also cascaded future activities for all constituents from problem identification, consultation, incubation, ideation, prototyping, and packaging for commercialization that will resolve problems with an excellent revenue model.

Mr. Jose Kevin Sienes, City Economic Management and Cooperative Development Office (CEMCDO) Assistant Department Head, concluded the event, acknowledging all partners who contributed to the success of the program. He emphasized the importance of technology in businesses and enterprises nowadays. "Without adapting to the changing entrepreneurial landscape, business establishments will be lagging behind their competitors," he added.

Also present during the event were students from the College of Engineering OSA Director Prof. Rhumer S. Lañojan, professors, government officials and employees, young professionals, potential startup teams, innovators, and entrepreneurs in the region.

With its aim to provide support and services to innovative ideas of budding entrepreneurs, ICEBox is committed to offering more boot camps, workshops, and networking activities. Taking part in this mission, the University will continue to support initiatives to develop the culture of technopreneurship and launch successful business ventures with ICEBox at its helm.





# LAKTANAN REFLEX GARDEN: THE NEWEST PLACE TO BE IN MSU–GENSAN

| Raydan M. Tangwayan, LPT

Have you ever wished for a place where you can unwind and spend your leisure time while in school? Well, there's a new place just for that. It was unveiled on November 7, 2022 and it is located on the right side of the University Library.

The Laktanan Reflex Garden is a collaborative project between the Gender and Development Office of Mindanao State University – General Santos City and the MSU General Santos Multi-Purpose Cooperative. Its main objective is to promote wellness among the University's constituents through a unique reflex path that seeks to replicate Japanese culture by incorporating foot sensory paths in their parks. The Laktanan features stones of different shapes, colors, and textures that are designed to be stepped on to massage the feet. Additionally, concrete chairs and tables have been added to provide a space for students who may need to

rest after a stressful class or prepare for an upcoming one.

During the inauguration, Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA, expressed his gratitude to the initiators who came up with the idea of creating a Reflex Garden. He further emphasized that the project is a result of effective communication that has turned an idea into a reality. In concluding his talk, he thanked the Multi-Purpose Cooperative, the offices responsible for the project's realization, and the alumni community who supported the construction of the Reflex Garden.

Engr. Felipe Galia, the Chairman of the Board of the MSU Multi-Purpose Cooperative, expressed his gratitude for the realization of the project that addresses the needs of the cooperative's clients.

Dr. Alma Celesthia D. Aguja, the Directress of the Cultural Affairs Office and the Alumni Relations Office,

also acknowledged the efforts of the personnel from the Physical Plant Division who helped construct the structure, as well as the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development for providing technical assistance with the structural planning and design. She further recognized the Gender Focal Point System, led by Dr. Precy R. Regalado, for approving the project proposal and providing funds. Dr. Aguja thanked the men and women from the Alumni Relations Office and Cultural Affairs Office for their contributions to the project.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by Vice Chancellors, Heads of Offices, Deans, and other University staff, who were the first to set foot on the reflex path and enjoy the Wellness Garden. Presently, the Laktanan Reflex Garden is open to be enjoyed by university constituents and guests.





## INDONESIAN INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY, MSU – GENSAN HOLD EXPLORATORY MEETING TO FOSTER COLLABORATION

| Jun Rex H. Haligue

Indonesian International Islamic University, a global leader in preserving and promoting Islamic culture and civilization, met with MSU-General Santos for an exploratory meeting aimed at fostering collaboration and cooperation on May 25, 2023, at the Conference Room, Administration Building.

The event brought together the key officials of the University headed by Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA, and Prof. Dahrul Hayat, Ph.D., the Vice-Rector for Academic, Student, and Human Resource Affairs of Indonesian International Islamic University. The objective of the meeting were to explore potential areas of collaboration on research, extension, and internationalization

and identify opportunities for student and faculty exchange.

In his message, Acting Chancellor Aragasi expressed his delight in the timely visit of Professor Hayat and conveyed his excitement to forge partnerships and collaborations. He cited possible areas of collaboration in Islamic studies and the offering of subjects in the Bahasa language.

In response, Dr. Hayat expressed his appreciation and gratitude for the opportunity to visit the University and explore potential areas of collaboration. He articulated their interest to collaborate in the areas of education, research, halal, and faculty exchange. As an expert in instruction and student evaluation, he conveyed his

willingness to teach at this University.

During the open forum, the participants actively engaged with Dr. Hayat on questions related to admission, research collaboration, student, and faculty exchange. He generously answered the questions and invited the faculty and students to pursue their graduate education at the Indonesian International Islamic University and avail of its scholarship grants.

The exploratory meeting was facilitated by the Office of International Affairs headed by Prof. Beverly T. Garcia and Halal Research and Training Center headed by Dr. Abdul Lantong.

## MSU – GENSAN HOLDS INTERNATIONAL LECTURE FORUM

| Beverly T. Garcia, MPA

Mindanao State University – General Santos, through the Office of International Affairs, in partnership with the Philippine Middle East Studies Association and the College of Social Sciences and Humanities conducted an International Lecture Forum last Friday, November 10, 2022, with the theme, “Marginalization of the Philippine Middle East Relations”. Participants of the lecture were students from different colleges but mostly from the College of Social Sciences and Humanities.

The lecture objectively examined the existing scenario on the marginalization of the Philippine-Middle East relations, and the importance of the Middle East in Philippine foreign policy, especially in 3Os Oil, Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW), and Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). Political dynamics behind the marginalization of Philippine Middle East relations and the roles of History and colonialism in shaping the perception and power image of the Philippines was revisited.

The resource speaker, Dr. Henelito Sevilla, Dean of the Asian Center of the University of the Philippines, is an expert in Middle East Relations. He obtained his Ph.D. in International Relations at Tehran University, Iran.

The students actively participated during the open forum. During the closing remarks, Prof. Junrex Haligue gave the synopsis of the lecture and expressed profound gratitude to Dr. Sevilla and wished to have more engagements in the future.



## MSU – GENSAN UNDERGOES MENTORING FOR STRATEGIC INTERNATIONALIZATION

| Beverly T. Garcia, MPA

MSU-General Santos through the Office of International Affairs (OIA) held the 2nd Mentoring for the Strategic Internationalization Planning on October 14 –15, 2022, at Green Leaf Hotel, General Santos City. The event was participated by the key officials of the university, the Vice Chancellors, Deans and the College International Affairs Coordinators, including the Directors of the Senior High School and CETD.

Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA expressed his optimism on the more intensified internationalization activities on the campus with the presence of the event’s training team from the Commission of Higher Education (CHED) main office. The CHED Team was led by Atty Lily Freida C. Milla, the Director of CHED-International Affairs Staff (IAS), together with Ms. Christine Joy Gitau, the Commission’s Education Program

Specialist.

Sharing the objectives and rationale of the event, Prof. Beverly T. Garcia, Director of the Office of International Affairs, emphasized the significant roles of the colleges and some departments to take active participation in the internationalization activities like student and faculty internship, scholarship and exchange program.

The event provided inputs on crafting the Strategic Internationalization Plan of each college which will eventually develop the Operations Manual of the Office of International Affairs. During the open forum, the participants eagerly shared their experiences and thoughts on internationalization and their plan of action that will bring about impactful results.



# GCED CENTRE OF THE PHILIPPINES SELECTS MSU–GENSAN AS REGION XII HUB

| Brian Jay B. Baybayan, 2nd Year–BSED English

The Philippine Normal University and Mindanao State University–General Santos City, through the Global Citizenship Education (GCED) Cooperation Centre of the Philippines, inked a Memorandum of Understanding on promoting Global Citizenship Education in the country on October 18 at The Swiss-Belhotel Blulane Manila, Manila.

Dr. Maria Theresa P. Pelones, the Dean of the College of Education and the focal person for the GCED Regional Hub represented the University. MSU–GenSan was among the 17 selected Regional hubs in the country, making the institution the forefront of the Philippine GCED Network’s Regional Hub for Region XII.

Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi stated that MSU–GenSan is inspired by this new responsibility since it aligns with its goal of becoming the National Peace University.

“As a peace institution, it is committed to supporting its objectives and aspirations in mainstreaming gender, culture, indigenization, peace-building initiatives, and internationalization while integrating the Global Citizenship Education lens into all areas of quality service, curriculum and instruction, research and development, learning exchange, and policy formulation and production,” Acting Chancellor Aragasi emphasized.

The launching of GCED Cooperation Centre (GCC) Philippines and the accreditation of GCC Regional hubs will promote GCED networking activities for the next five years in order to build inclusive, secure, and sustainable societies for all.



## MSU–GENSAN UNITES ACADEME AND PEACEMAKERS IN FORUM

| Jasmin T. Saricala

MSU–General Santos, in collaboration with its Institute for Peace and Development in Mindanao (IPDM), successfully organized the “Academe Meets the Peacemakers: Forum on the Progress of the MNLF Peace Process” on February 8, 2023, at the Regional Science Research Center, Fatima Campus Recognizing the need for meaningful conversations with stakeholders, the forum aimed at enhancing the academic community’s understanding of ongoing government–MNLF initiatives in pursuing peace in Bangsamoro. As MSU aspires to become the National Peace University, the event provided an opportunity for the academe to engage in dialogue with stakeholders and develop agenda that support the peace process.

The recent efforts to bring together the factions in Bangsamoro for peace and development were highlighted during the forum. While the implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) with the MILF receives regular public attention, the progress of the 1996 Final Peace Agreement with the MNLF has somewhat faded from the public imagination. Some members of the MNLF were appointed to the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) and given ministerial positions in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

Additionally, little is known about how initiatives for Moro groups are being harmonized within the Bangsamoro region and the peace

trajectory of the current administration in resolving the “Bangsamoro problem.”

The distinguished guests at the forum included BGEN. Cesar Yano (Ret), the Chairperson of the Government of the Philippines Coordinating Committee, OPAPRU and Chairperson. Uttoh Salem Cutan, the MNLF Coordinating Committee Chairperson. Their presence provided valuable insights and sparked initial discussions between the OPAPRU and MSU General Santos City headed by Acting Chancellor Usman D. Aragasi regarding the potential engagement of the University in implementing community appraisal in MNLF barangays, alongside individual interventions for the combatants.

The event organized by Dr. Mario J. Aguja, OIC Director of IPDM, was attended by University officials, directors, peace educators, and students.. Their active participation contributed to the constructive exchange of ideas and perspectives on the MNLF peace process.

The “Academe Meets the Peacemakers: Forum on the Progress of the MNLF Peace Process” served as a crucial step in strengthening the engagement between the academic community and stakeholders involved in peacebuilding efforts in the Bangsamoro region. The event fostered a collaborative atmosphere, encouraging further dialogue and cooperation to support lasting peace and development in Mindanao.



College of Education Dean, Dr. Maria Theresa P. Pelones receives a Certificate of Recognition from Philippine Normal University President, Dr. Bert J. Tuga, as an acknowledgment for MSU–GenSan as a forefront in the Philippine GCED Network’s Regional Hub in Region XII.





College of Agriculture Dean, Dr. Edward R. Lapong, together with (from left to right) Vice Chancellor, Dr. Mishell D. Lawas, and representatives from Chareon Pokphand Foods (CPF) headed by the Senior Vice-President, Mr. Sompong Rojanaadisorn during the signing of the memorandum of agreement.

## UNIVERSITY, CPF FORM PARTNERSHIP FOR AGRI STUDENTS' INDUSTRY TRAINING

| Dwight Luciano Mendez & Edward R. Lapong, Ph.D.

Mindanao State University - General Santos and Chareon Pokphand Foods (CPF) Philippines signed a memorandum of understanding last March 8, 2022, paving the way for students from the College of Agriculture to undergo On-the-Job Training in the company. The signing was held at the Conference Room, Administration Building and was attended by delegates from both institutions.

The Memorandum outlines that the CPF will provide accommodations and allowances for the student trainees, with the program specifically targeting students from the Departments

of Agronomy, Animal Science and Agribusiness Management. The delegates from CPF were led by Mr. Sompong Rojanaadisorn, Senior Vice-President of the CPF Agro-livestock feed business in Visayas and Mindanao, while MSU-General Santos delegates were led by College of Agriculture Dean, Dr. Edward R. Lapong and VCAA, Dr. Mishell D. Lawas.

Vice-Chancellor Lawas lauded the collaboration and CPF's enthusiasm to provide students with the opportunity to be trained and be employed in their company. She also highlighted the need for more proactive engagements

with stakeholders from the private sector to provide students with same opportunities.

This partnership is a great opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience in their respective fields and specialization, and is a testament to the commitment of both MSU-GenSan and CPF in promoting academic excellence and industry-academia linkages. The signing of the MOU is a step towards creating a dynamic and responsive workforce that is equipped with the skills needed to thrive in the ever-changing job market.



Faculty and students of the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, with the representatives from Kubota Philippines Inc. and Green Valley Machineries during the training on the use of up-to-date agricultural machinery

## KUBOTA TRAINS AGRI STUDENTS ON OPERATING FARM MACHINERY

| James Fabillar, 2nd Year - BSABE

Aiming to equip the fourth-year students of the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering the basic knowledge about up-to-date agricultural machinery, Kubota Philippines Incorporated, in partnership with Green Valley Machineries, conducted the Kubota Saka Agri Talk 2023 on April 13-14, 2023, at the Regional Science Research Center and ABE Complex, MSU-General Santos City.

Highlighting the two-day event was the actual demonstration which featured the students being trained to ride, drive, and operate machines like

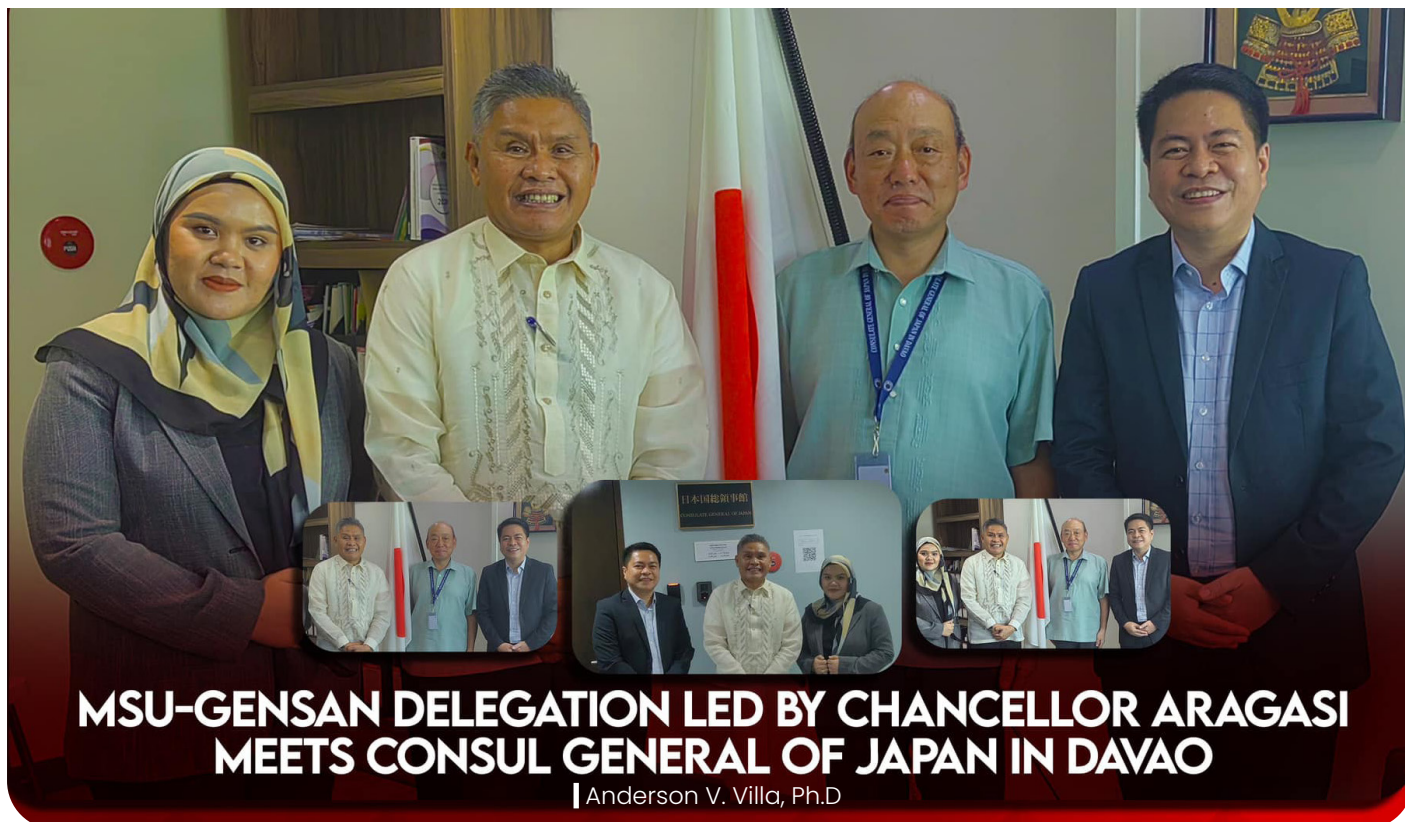
tractor, automatic seeder, transplanter, and combine rice harvester. It also featured a session that discussed how cost analysis ought to be done when purchasing agricultural equipment, including the operations cost and return of investment.

Merwin Alecxander Baterbonia, one of the participants, said that the event was essential for them to have a personal experience in operating the machines, and at least prepared them for their job in the future. "If ang gusto nako nga job or ang target nako nga job is more on field and machineries,

like for example target nako magsulod sa PhilMech or other agencies which are focused sa machineries, ma-apply nako akong natun-an sa event or let's say na edge nako to siya sa other applicants kay nakabalo ko paano mag-operate sa ing-ato na mga machineries", Baterbonia said.

Anchored in their thrust of distributing high-quality agricultural equipment and machinery in the country, Kubota's partnership with the university also holds significance since it establishes linkages for the employment of its graduates.





## MSU-GENSAN DELEGATION LED BY CHANCELLOR ARAGASI MEETS CONSUL GENERAL OF JAPAN IN DAVAO

| Anderson V. Villa, Ph.D

The MSU GenSan delegation was officially received by Hon. Yoshihisa Ishikawa, Consul General of Japan in Davao of the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines (MOFA). Acting Chancellor, JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA was joined by Dr. Anderson V. Villa, Professor at the Political Science Department (CSSH) and Atty. Hanna-Tunisia Usman,

Campus Legal Officer who is also an alumna of the Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP).

Acting Chancellor Aragasi and ConGen Ishikawa recognize the strategic role of MSU-GenSan in sustaining the gains for peace and peace-building initiatives in Mindanao. The MSU-GenSan delegation also impressed the Consul

General on the complementarity of its academic programs with that of Japan's efforts in the development of the region in the field of agriculture, fisheries, medicine, natural sciences, social sciences, education among others. ConGen Ishikawa also looks forward to more collaborative engagements with MSU-GenSan in the nearest future.



Acting Chancellor, JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA, seated with (from left to right) Vice Chancellor, Ms. Nurhida G. Canacan, CPA, and Pepsi-Cola Regional Commercial Head, Mr. Leonard Henry Wong together with office heads and staff of MSU-GenSan during the signing of MOA

## MSU – GENSAN, PEPSI – COLA INK PARTNERSHIP

| Eunece V. Naive

Mindanao State University – General Santos entered a partnership with Pepsi-Cola Products Philippines, Inc. (PCPPI) through a Memorandum of Agreement on September 23, 2022, in the Conference Room, Administration Building.

The agreement gave PCPPI the rights to sell, advertise and its products in various canteens and cafeterias such as the ASSSA canteen (located near the Y Building), Andrea Macabubud canteen (located beside the Agriculture Building),

and Camanay canteen (located adjacent to the school gymnasium), and the newly repaired Habibi Foodbox (located near the Y Building). MSU-GenSan will also authorize PCPPI to repaint the said canteens.

Moreover, the University will allow PCPPI to deploy 30 units of steel kiosks with 2 ice coolers each and provide kiosks with designs subject to conformity by the architects of MSU-GenSan. Also, the collaborative partnership is initiated for PCPPI to consider including

MSU-GenSan graduates, among its preference, in hiring company personnel or employees.

The inking of the MOA was attended by the University officials: Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA, and the representatives from PCPPI: Regional Commercial Head Leonard Henry Wong, Sales Manager Jun-jun Estandarte, and Territory Manager Allan Pazon.





## MSU – GENSAN, UP DILIMAN FORGE PARTNERSHIP

| Eunece V. Naive

Mindanao State University – General Santos City through the Office of International Affairs (OIA) forged a collaboration with the University of the Philippines – Diliman by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on November 25, 2022, in the morning, at the Conference Room, Administration Building.

Inking the MOU were the UP-Diliman Chancellor Dr. Fidel R. Nemenzo together with Vice Chancellor for Research and Development, Dr. Gonzalo Campoamor, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Dr. Loiuse Jashil Sonido, and the Special Assistant to the Chancellor, Dr. Dulce Verdolaga, and Dr. Henelito A. Sevilla, Dean of the Asian Center. Leading MSU-GenSan is Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA with the Vice Chancellors, Deans, Directors, and College International Affairs Coordinators of the University.

This ceremonial MOU signing is the product of constant consultation between the two universities spearheaded by the MSU-GenSan Office of International Affairs and UP Asian Center.

The MOU seeks to develop academic cooperation and promote mutual understanding between the two Universities. The MOU will leverage each universities' comparative advantage to consider the development of mutually beneficial academic collaborations including the exchange of faculty, researchers, and other research and administrative staff; exchange of students and practicum; collaborative research projects; lectures and

symposia; exchange of academic information and materials – library to library information; and other forms of academic cooperation.

"This MOU Signing marks a historic milestone between the two universities with sincere intentions manifested by their presence –an opportunity which will benefit the two universities," Acting Chancellor Aragasi remarked.

The signing ceremony was joined by distinguished witnesses, Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Humanities Dr. Carmela G. Ong, Dean of School of Graduate Studies Dr. Ava Clare Marie O. Robles, Dean of College of Business Administration and Accountancy Dr. Marissa G. Dela Cruz, GAD Focal Person and Directress of the Center for Women Studies Dr. Precy R. Regalado, Directress of Internal Audit Services Ms. Lorraine M. Dagalangit, Camputer Registrar Prof. Tessa R. Castillo, Campus Secretary Prof. Norman Ralph B. Isla, Research Director Dr. Jovanie C. Espesor, Directress of Cultural Affairs Office Dr. Alma Celesthia D. Aguja, Head of Procurement Office Ms. Haydee Espinosa, Executive Assistant to the OC Ms. Rhea Ayop and Dr. Farnzovitz A. Atillen. Guests from both universities and key actors in the partnership were also present: Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Mishell D. Lawas, Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development Prof. Sheila J. Loable, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Ms. Nurleila G. Canacan and Directress of Office of International Affairs Prof. Beverly Garcia.

## UNIVERSITY, BRGY. FATIMA INK PARTNERSHIP FOR ADOPT A BARANGAY PROGRAM

| Mohammad Nazief Naga, RSW

The recent signing of a historic Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between MSU-GenSan and Barangay Fatima on October 25, 2022, marked a significant step towards community development in the region and a new approach to engagement and collaboration that other universities and communities could learn from.

This partnership was made possible through the foresight and dedication of Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA and Dr. Keno Jay M. Balogbog. Their vision for community development is aligned with the mission of MSU-GenSan, and this partnership is a testament to their unwavering commitment to creating positive change.

The signing of the MOA was graced by Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension Dr. Edna P. Guevarra and Extension Director Dr. Wilfred D. Bidad. Mohammad Nazief Naga, RSW was also scouted as the resource speaker of the event. Their attendance underscored the importance of the partnership and emphasized the significance of building strong relationships with local communities.

This endeavor is about recognizing the importance of collaboration and prioritizing community development. This partnership is not just about the resources and expertise that MSU-GenSan can share with Barangay Fatima but it is about setting an example for other institutions and communities to follow.

MSU-GenSan and Barangay Fatima are laying the groundwork for a meaningful and sustainable extension program that will be more beneficial to the beneficiaries and further development of the barangay. By working together, they are unlocking the potential of the community and serving as an inspiration for others. Indeed, collaboration is the key to unlocking the potential of our communities, and this partnership serves as an example of what can be achieved through working together towards a shared goal.







Acting Chancellor, JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA (in the middle), together with (from left to right), Senior Coop Development Specialist, Ms. Ruth N. Alendajao, Asst. Regional Director, Ms. Juriski B. Mangalen, RD Engr. Doreen C. Ancheta, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Mishell D. Lawas, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sheila J. Looble, and Vice-Chancellor, Ms. Nurleila G. Canacan, CPA during the signing of MOA with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA).

## MSU – GENSAN IDENTIFIED AS COOPERATIVE TRAINING PROVIDER BY CDA IN REGION XII

| Mohammad Nazief Naga, RSW

Mindanao State University - General Santos City and the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) joined hands to cement their dedication to enhancing cooperative education and development in the region through the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on March 13, 2023. The MOA was signed at the Y Building Conference Hall in a ceremony that brought together representatives from both institutions.

With this partnership, a path towards a more cooperative and inclusive approach to education and development has been set, with the hopes of inspiring other academic institutions and government agencies to follow suit. This momentous signing ceremony marks the start of a transformative collaboration that will benefit both institutions, the education sector, and the community at large, showcasing the power of unity in achieving progress and prosperity.

This new partnership seeks to improve the educational training

of cooperatives in the region through collaboration with the academe. MSU-GenSan plays a crucial role in providing Training of Trainers for Cooperative Training Providers (CTPRO) and in developing a standard course outline for the training, in partnership with CDA. Under the new guidelines set by CDA for CTPRO accreditation and monitoring, CTPRO trainers will undergo at least twenty-four hours of training from the University.

The signing of this MOA was a significant event, and its overview was delivered by Ard. Juriski B. Mangalen, the Supervising CDS of CDA Region XII, with additional inputs for the curriculum outline from Engr. Doreen C. Ancheta, CDA Regional Director XII. Delegates from MSU-GenSan, on the other hand, were led by Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA, together with other key personnel from the University. This partnership will be implemented by the University Extension Services Office.

This collaboration recognizes the vital role of the University in the promotion,

advocacy, and development of cooperatives in the education system. Engr. Ancheta expressed her delight, stating that the MOA signing was a "dream come true" for CDA.

This partnership is a milestone that will benefit both institutions, the education sector, and the community at large. The agreement emphasizes the importance of collaboration between the academe and government institutions in promoting community development, economic growth, and social progress. It sets an example for other academic institutions and government agencies to follow, and provides a roadmap for a more cooperative and inclusive approach to education and development.

MSU-GenSan's commitment to promote cooperative education and development in Region XII is a testament to its dedication to academic excellence and community engagement. This new partnership with CDA reflects the University's mission to contribute to the advancement of society and to foster a culture of innovation and collaboration that will benefit generations to come.



Acting Chancellor, JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA, with the representatives from the DILG XII and some faculty and staff from the university during the discussion on the upcoming events in collaboration with the Citizens' Satisfaction Index System (CSIS).

## UNIVERSITY, DILG XII MEET TO COLLAB ON CITIZEN'S SATISFACTION INDEX SYSTEM

| Beverly T. Garcia, MPA

On May 08, 2023, MSU General Santos was visited by key regional officials of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) XII and discussed plans for upcoming collaboration on Citizen's Satisfaction Index System (CSIS) project.

The visitors were warmly received by Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA himself who started conversing on the beneficiality of this undertaking to the local government of General Santos.

On the other hand, DILG Officials also expressed their trust in the university the very reason that they chose MSU GenSan to carry out the project. Both parties exchanged their opinions on how to go through with the procedures in the actual community engagement. CSIS is a five-year community project covering Region XII. While details have been discussed, both parties agreed to meet and finalized everything through MOA Signing which will take place soon.

Per DILG XII, the Citizen Satisfaction Index System (CSIS) was developed to serve as a tool for gathering relevant information to gauge citizen satisfaction on the agenda-setting of LGU's economic and human development agenda. The program is consistent with the Department's ongoing commitment to broadening the spaces for participation in local governance where citizens and civil society organizations (CSOs) are empowered to demand accountability from local authorities.



# 2022 REGIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WEEK

Vice Chancellor, Dr. Edna P. Guevarra (in red) and Dr. Jovanie C. Espesor (leftmost) receive a plaque of recognition from the DOST XII Director, Engr. Sammy Malawan and DOST Asst. Regional Dir., Engr. Normina P. Pahm during the 2022 Regional Science and Technology Week.

## UNIVERSITY SHOWCASES TOPNOTCH RESEARCH PROJECTS IN REGIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WEEK

Mark Ivan Caro

Mindanao State University-General Santos showcased its topnotch research projects on Tuna Research, Plant-based Nutraceuticals, and Pandemic Waste Management during the celebration of the 2022 Regional Science and Technology Week with the theme, "Agham at Teknolohiya Kabalikatan sa Maunlad at Matatag na Kinabukasan" held at Trade Hall, SM City General Santos, October 11-13.

Representing the Chancellor during the three-day event are Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension, Dr. Edna P. Guevarra, Director of Research and Development, Dr. Jovanie C. Espesor, and Dr. Ryan G. Banal, Assistant Director of Research and Development. Leading the exhibit viewing and networking are some researchers and staff coming from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension. Moreover, students from the College of Engineering, Fisheries, Agriculture and Natural Science and Mathematics also attended the roadshow occasion.

Dr. Jovanie C. Espesor highlighted the importance of MSU GenSan's participation in the event, "With MSU GenSan participating, it's an opportunity for the University to increase visibility and raise its international profile as a research institution that is producing topnotch knowledge products." He also emphasized that through this occasion, the University can showcase projects funded by different agencies, particularly by the Department of Science and Technology and the Commission on Higher Education, and join various stakeholders from the private sector, line agencies of the government, and small, micro and medium enterprises in the region.

The presence of artists from the Pinta Okir Visual Arts Guild - the official art organization of MSU GenSan added extra festivity to the exhibit show, gathering a large crowd of spectators and participants with the free face paint, henna tattoo, and sketching activities.

The included research projects

during the three-day program are the following:

- (1) Reproductive Biology Studies of 3 Neritic Tuna Species in Mindanao;
- (2) Dietary Analysis and Feeding Habits of Six (6) Philippine Tuna Species Using Metagenomics;
- (3) Otolith Elemental Fingerprinting, Shape Analysis, and Microstructural Analysis of Three (3) Philippine Neritic Tuna Species.
- (4) Development and Scientific Validation of Medicinal, Nutraceutical, and Cosmeceutical Products from Marine and Terrestrial Resources in Mindanao: Towards Community Initiatives and Poverty Alleviation; and
- (5) Assessment and Profiling of Pandemic-Induced Wastes in General Santos City: Basis for the Development of Technologies in the City.

Finally, MSU-General Santos received a plaque of appreciation from the DOST for its contribution to the success of the Regional Science and Technology Week

## MSU-GENSAN'S KABPAPAGARIYA ENSEMBLE RECEIVES 2022 GADOR AWARD

Raydan M. Tangwayan, LPT

The Kabpapagariya Ensemble, MSU - General Santos' own cultural theater group, received the 2022 Gador Award from the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Kaisa Sa Sining (KSS) Mindanao Network. The program was conducted at the Cultural Heritage Center of Tagum City last November 5, 2022.

"The Gador Award aims to give recognition to deserving individuals and/or organizations in Mindanao who have exemplified commendable work and services in cultural and artistic endeavors, and have been in the forefront of the research, development, preservation, education and promotion of arts and culture in Mindanao for at least ten (10) years or more," explained by Carmencita J. Bernardo, head of the Cultural Exchange Department, Cultural Center of the Philippines.

The award was received in behalf of the KE by the Directress of Cultural Affairs Office, Dr. Alma Celestia D. Aguja. "We are celebrating this honor today as proof of our determination to develop and expand, not just in terms of performance but also as an advocate for social causes. From almost nothing, KE became somebody. We dedicate



this recognition to the young Mindanawon artists of the MSU General Santos' Kabpapagariya Ensemble, and the men and women behind the past, present, and future generations of the Kabpapagariya Ensemble. We give thanks to our administration headed by JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA for his undying support to the group. Cheers to KE founder Ma'am Emeberta Nazareth, and the ever-legendary Mader Romeo F. Narvaez," Aguja remarked in her acceptance speech.

Other awardees of the Gador Award were Dr. Helen Tejero (music/Iligan), Dr. Christine Godinez-Ortega (literature-cultural work/Iligan), Br. Karl Gaspar (theater-cultural work/Davao), Waway Saway (music-indigenous art/Bukidnon), Popong Landero (music/Davao), Frank Englis (music/Iligan), Nilda Mangilay (indigenous art/Zamboanga del Sur), Kublai Millan (visual arts/Davao), Kabpapagariya Ensemble (theater-cultural work/Gen. Santos), Kathara Dance Theater Collective (dance-theater/Davao), Kaliwat Theater Collective (theater-cultural work/Davao), Tambuli Cultural Dance Troupe (dance-indigenous art/ Tawi

Tawi), and Dumendingan Arts Guild (cultural administration-indigenous art/Pagadian City).

Meanwhile, during its 16th Regular Session, the 20th Sangguniang Panlungsod of the City of General Santos passed Resolution No. 1322, which expressed profound commendation to the Kabpapagariya Ensemble of Mindanao State University - General Santos' Cultural Theater Group for receiving the "2nd GADOR AWARD" from the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Kaisa Sa Sining Mindanao Network at the Cultural Heritage Center of Tagum City on November 05, 2022.

The Resolution highlighted that KE has produced countless artists scattered all throughout Mindanao, and it also recognized the group's efforts in developing patriotism, nationalism, and other desirable values of the people in the City of General Santos. Hon. Virginia T. Llido and Hon. Jonathan T. Blando authored the Resolution, and the Council concurred with their proposal.



# MSU – GENSAN RECEIVES GAWAD KINAIYAHAN AWARD

|Monlouie M. Sorzano, MA

Mindanao State University – General Santos received the Gawad Kinaiyahan Award from the LGU of General Santos through the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) on October 5 at Sun City Suites, General Santos City.

The Dean of the College of Agriculture, Dr. Edward R. Lapong, received the award on behalf of the administration during the 2nd Gensan Environment Convergence hosted by CENRO. With the theme, “Securing Environmental Sustainability through Continuing Collaboration and Integration,” the event underscores the importance of all stakeholders converging to responsibly conserve and manage the City’s finite environment and natural resources for its sustainable development and achieve its vision of becoming the “Green City of the South.”

This citation was accorded to the University for its commitment and contribution to the city’s environmental programs through collaborative research and activities geared towards the conservation of the city’s environment and natural resources.

This recognition emphasizes not only the efforts of the University for the conservation of the city’s resources but also its active partnership as an academic and research institution in looking for ways to sustainably optimize the city’s resources both for greater socio-economic gains and environmental co-existence. Verily, this motivates the University to continuously uphold its mission of producing a competent workforce that will contribute to the environmental conservation of General Santos and beyond.



Faculty and student awardees, (from left to right) Mr. Al Benzhar Lumagall, Prof. Norman Ralph B. Isla, Dr. Monsour A. Pelmin, and Mr. Clyde Almaden, with their plaques of recognition during the annual General Santos City Youth Achiever Award

## MSUANS BAG GSCYA AWARDS

|Jaydee G. Paid, MA

As the city’s most prestigious award-giving body for young individuals and youth organizations who are exemplary in their respective fields and have created significant impact on the welfare and development of the city and its citizens, the General Santos City Youth Achiever Award (GSCYAA) was held again after two years of hiatus last December 20, 2022, at Veranza Mall Activity Center. Notably, five MSUans, two faculty members, and three alumni walked off the trophies, to wit:

Dr. Monsour A. Pelmin, the incumbent chairperson of the Department of Economics, Marketing, and Management (DEMM), Peace Action Research Coordinator of the Institute of Peace and Development in Mindanao (IPDM), and a faculty member of the College of Business Administration and Accountancy, is one of the three recipients under the Young Professionals, Entrepreneur, and Workers Category. Along with this, he is a fellow for business management, marketing, quality management, entrepreneurship, hospitality, and tourism research, where with his knowledge and expertness, he conducts training and seminars for various academic institutions, MSMEs, government and private firms.

Prof. Norman Ralph B. Isla, MA, the Campus Secretary and a faculty member of the College of Social Sciences and Humanities, won the Youth Excellence in Artistic Discipline for his contributions to the promotion and development of Mindanao Theater. As the founder and artistic director of Basic Institute for Dramatic Arts (BIDA) Gensan, he wrote and directed various plays that were featured in the local, national, and international scene—plays which highlight folklore and human conflict reflected in the surrounding communities and unsettling realities. In addition, he has also directed local festivals, presented literary research, and mentored budding playwrights and performers.

The same award was given to Ms. Jessa Mae Nuñez-Fuentes, a graduate

of Bachelor of Arts Major in English, who was honored for her contributions to the field of Visual Arts. In 2018, she received the University Artist of the Year, College Distinction Award for Visual Arts, and 17th Kabantugan Awards Artist of the Year. In 2021, she became an NCCA- National Committee on Visual Arts Sining Sineng Gawad Grantee. She is currently a full-time visual artist who does mural and canvas paintings and conducts art workshops and tutorials for local and aspiring artists in different regional institutions.

The winner for Cultural Communities and Indigenous People’s Youth category was Mr. Al Benzhar Lumagall. He is a teacher, community facilitator, and peace advocate. He is affiliated with Equal Access International and Mindanao Development Foundation Incorporated, NGOs that support vulnerable communities through education, community mobilization activities, and peace projects. He labors for the empowerment of his fellow Maguindanaon and other minorities of the community.

Mr. Clyde Almaden bagged the award for In-School Youth Category (College). He is currently taking up a Bachelor of Elementary Education. He demonstrated leadership at a young age, working on programs and projects promoting students’ rights and welfare. He founded Project GenZine, the first and only children-made publication in the country that advances correct information on HIV and AIDS to young people. Because of this, he was granted the Batang Bayani Awards.

Indeed, these recognitions strengthen the truth of MSUAN excellence. As stewards of knowledge and talents, they continuously work to enrich and further their chosen field and expertise. True to its vision, MSU’s contributions are its products, its graduates, who are “committed to the social, political, and economic development of Mindanao.”





# TRIUMPH UNVEILED: MSU–GENSAN’S TOPNOTCHERS’ JOURNEY BEYOND THE SCORES

| Engr. Joshua Marvin A. Noval



## ZERIMAR R. RAMIREZ, LPT TOP 9– OCTOBER 2022 LET (Secondary)

### Defying Odds and Rising to the Top: Zerimar’s Journey to Board Exam Success

Born and raised with a thirst for knowledge, Zerimar’s academic achievements and extracurricular activities showcased a multifaceted individual. From being part of the Special Program for Journalism in high school to winning a spoken word competition, Zerimar’s diverse talents and interests have shaped a remarkable journey.

“Padayon lang. Dream deep and work hard.”

Motivation played a pivotal role in Zerimar’s journey toward the top spot. The desire to hold a Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) ID card, after a five-year wait due to unforeseen circumstances, served as a driving force. Zerimar’s determination to pass the board exam on the first attempt propelled them to give their utmost effort. Despite facing challenges, such as self-doubt and the pressure of starting later than her peers, Zerimar’s unwavering faith and trust in divine timing kept the flame of hope alive.

Her story embodies the passion, perseverance, and unwavering faith of an individual who defied the odds and rose to the top. Zerimar’s journey reminds us that dreams can be realized with determination, focus, and an unwavering belief in oneself. It is a testament to the power of resilience and the limitless possibilities that lie within each aspiring board exam taker.

## ERRAH MAE E. PLANA, LPT TOP 9– OCTOBER 2022 LET (Secondary)

### Overcoming Challenges, Inspiring Futures: Errah’s Journey as an Educator

Errah’s college journey was a testament to resilience. Despite facing setbacks and struggles, particularly with her thesis, she remained motivated and determined to pursue her goals. Graduating later than her block mates only fueled her determination to succeed, proving that setbacks are not the end but opportunities for growth.

As part of the distinguished batch Paham-Alimbukad, Errah earned her Bachelor of Secondary Education degree in Biological Sciences. She received prestigious scholarships, including the DOST-JLSS, Entrance Scholarship, and RD Foundation Scholarship, highlighting her academic excellence. Throughout her journey, her family provided unwavering support, deserving of her heartfelt appreciation.

“Laban lang. Follow your heart, and there’s nothing you can’t achieve.

Today, Errah lives her dream as a special science teacher, inspiring others with her unwavering dedication and gratitude. Her story serves as a source of inspiration for those who have faced their own struggles. She reminds us to persevere and embrace challenges, knowing that with determination, we can achieve whatever we set our hearts to.



## ENGR. LAURENCE LEE PAJARILLO

### Top 5– February 2023 Mechanical Engineering Licensure Examination Defying Limits and Shaping Success: Laurence’s Journey to Extraordinary Heights

After graduating Magna Cum Laude from MSU–Gensan, Laurence’s unwavering commitment to his studies set him apart. With a structured study routine and adherence to the Pomodoro technique, he maximized productivity while ensuring time for personal rejuvenation. Motivated by a desire to redefine success, Laurence aimed to emphasize the importance of practical skills beyond exam results. “I’m most proud of the fact that I did not stop. To the end, I gave it my all.”

Inspired by his admired seniors who excelled in their fields, he sought to showcase that achievement extends beyond traditional measurements. Balancing his responsibilities through effective time management and discipline, Laurence eliminated distractions and allocated dedicated slots for relaxation and social media, staying focused on his goals.

Looking ahead, Laurence’s achievement as a topnotcher will undoubtedly shape his future. The newfound confidence he has gained will serve as a steadfast foundation for all his future endeavors. He expresses deep gratitude to his family, friends, and teachers whose unwavering support propelled him forward, enabling him to give his absolute best. His extraordinary journey serves as a beacon of inspiration, reminding us that with unwavering determination, we can conquer any challenge and achieve greatness.



## DALJ ANDREW Q. SONSONA, LPT TOP 9– March 2023 LET (Elementary)

### Achieving Balance and Brilliance: Dalj’s Journey to Academic Triumph

With a solid spotlight on keeping a high GPA and effectively looking for scholarly development, Dalj has reliably exhibited his commitment to academic achievement. He enjoys recreational sports like table tennis and sepak takraw alongside his studies, and his passion for photography gives him a creative way to express himself. He acquires a unique perspective on life and culture through his reading of manga and watching anime. Dalj stands out thanks to his dedication to personal growth and well-balanced approach to life.

“As I remembered, the College of Education is focusing on a particular success-related trait called GRIT. It denotes bravery, tenacity, and character strength.”

Dalj overcame the difficulties of the board exam with the help of his loved ones and a well-organized study schedule. A sense of contentment and satisfaction has been brought about by his exam success. It not only demonstrates his dedication and expertise, but it also opens up new career paths for him.

Dalj remains open to a variety of career options as he looks toward the future, such as freelancing and working as a virtual assistant. He is prepared to navigate the professional world with confidence and determination because his accomplishments as a top-notch performer have provided him with a solid foundation for success.





Achieving excellence in board exams necessitates more than just academic prowess. It requires dedication, perseverance, and a remarkable journey of personal growth. In this article, we delve into the inspiring stories of topnotchers who have defied odds, shattered limitations, and soared to the top, leaving a lasting impression on the hearts and minds of aspiring achievers.



## **SHERIJANE R. TAMBLIK, LPT**

### **TOP 10– March 2023 LET (Elementary)**

#### **Breaking Barriers and Soaring to Success: Sherijane's Inspiring Journey to Board Exam Triumph**

Throughout her academic journey, Sherijane excelled in her studies, graduating with Latin honors and securing scholarships to lighten her family's financial burden. Despite having blurred eyesight, she fearlessly participated in chess and softball competitions, showcasing her resilience and determination.

"Dream high because nothing is wrong in believing that you can achieve the things that are for you are impossible to achieve."

Motivated by her love for her family, Sherijane worked tirelessly to create a better future for them. Her unwavering determination and belief in her abilities fueled her pursuit of excellence, inspiring others to aim high and work hard.

As a topnotcher, Sherijane serves as an inspiration to fellow students preparing for their board exams. Her advice to dream big, work consistently, and have unwavering faith resonates with aspiring achievers. Sherijane's remarkable accomplishment has left an indelible impact on her future plans and aspirations. While considering her next steps, she is determined to use her success as a springboard to serve her community and become a source of inspiration, particularly for the younger generation.

## **STEVEN B. PORMENTO, LPT**

### **TOP 10– March 2023 LET (Elementary)**

#### **Striking a Harmonious Chord: Steven's Journey from Musician to Topnotcher**

In college, Steven consistently made it to the dean's list and graduated with Latin honors (Cum Laude). He was a lead guitarist and band major in ARYA, a Cultural Affairs Department-affiliated performing group, in addition to his academic accomplishments.

"One should be aware of their strengths and weaknesses so that one could capitalize on them."

Balancing studies, side hustles, family commitments, and church responsibilities was no easy task for Steven. However, he established a routine that he strictly adhered to and stressed the significance of being on time and managing his time. Steven had to mature and make tough decisions due to difficulties, particularly with time management, which made him feel more responsible as a musician and a student.

Steven's success as a topnotcher has given him and his family new opportunities. His accomplishment has broadened his horizons, and attracted higher-paying job offers and media attention, despite the added pressure. Steven's future looks promising, whether he decides to work for the government or pursue a career in the armed forces. He acknowledges that his mentors, family, and friends' unwavering faith in him as the driving force behind his success has sustained him throughout everything.



## **JOANNE M. NAYA, LPT**

### **Top 8– March 2023 LET (Secondary)**

#### **Rising to the Top: Joanne's Inspiring Journey of Achievement and Faith**

Joanne's academic journey has been nothing short of extraordinary despite her humble upbringing. Joanne's academic achievements speak volumes about her dedication to learning, from being class valedictorian in elementary school to graduating with high honors from Alabel National Science High School and earning a cum laude distinction at MSU-GenSan. Along with her studies, she was active in extracurricular activities such as writing for the College of Education's official student publication and playing softball in college.

"The best impact is indeed the growth of my faith in God, which also brought an increase in self-confidence and self-belief."

Joanne's success did not come without its share of difficulties. Balancing her studies with other responsibilities was a difficult task, but Joanne's exceptional time management skills enabled her to manage her obligations. She dedicated long hours to review sessions, interspersed with breaks for self-care, exercise, and prayer, using a structured study routine. During times of doubt and anxiety, her unwavering faith and reliance on prayer served as pillars of strength.

Joanne's accomplishment not only opens up new job opportunities and career paths for her, but it also strengthens her faith and self-belief. She will be eternally grateful to her family, friends, and teachers for their unwavering support throughout her journey. Joanne is filled with pride in her accomplishments and gratitude for the guidance and blessings she has received.

## **ENGR. ALLAN ACE S. DIGNADICE**

### **TOP 6 – April 2023 Electronics Engineering Board Examination**

#### **Allan's Journey: From Dreaming of the Stars to Topping the Board**

Allan's journey has come full circle as he finds himself being interviewed as a topnotcher, reminiscing about the time he interviewed his senior, who also received the top spot on their board exams. Allan went from dreaming of becoming an astronaut as a child to becoming a registered electronics engineer, graduating Magna Cum Laude from the university in 2022.

"I believe that hard work surpasses intelligence. That's why I really worked hard and persevered until I achieved my goals."

Financial constraints prevented Allan from attending a face-to-face review in Cebu, so he opted for an online review to ease the burden on his parents, Annalyn and Allan. He appreciates his parents' unwavering support and is grateful to make them proud. Witnessing their ecstatic reaction when they learned he ranked 6th in the board exams was a surreal and emotional moment. As a celebration, Allan joyfully got a haircut, symbolizing a fresh start.

Allan aspires to work in the academe, aiming to inspire and guide future learners, just as his teachers have inspired him. He also desires practical experience in the field, intending to share those experiences with his future students. Lastly, he firmly believes that "hard work beats intelligence." Allan is a testament to the idea that anything is attainable through diligent effort, and he hopes to inspire others to adopt the same mindset.





# ACHIEVERS

## Breaking Barriers: Celebrating the achievements of topnotchers and passers in various licensure tests

Mindanao State University-General Santos celebrates the strong performance of its alumni from the various colleges after they have secured their respective professional licenses. The recent release of board exam results has brought about a wave of celebration for the topnotchers and passers who have shown exceptional skills and knowledge in their respective fields. These individuals have proven that hard work, dedication, and perseverance can lead to great success. Their achievements serve as an inspiration to future exam takers, showing that with the right mindset and preparation, anything is possible. Congratulations to all the topnotchers and passers for their outstanding performance and for setting the bar high for their peers.

### **MSU-GenSan clinches 64.18% institutional passing rate in the October 2022 Licensure Examination for Fisheries Professionals**

List of our new Fisheries Professionals:

Abella, Raulito Jr.  
Abuda, Jeorjena Dawn  
Amoncio, Red Arthur Duke  
Andalinog, Mike  
Aspera, Rhodgie  
Belinario, Vincent  
Bruto, Jerony  
Bucayan, Margie Lou  
Butlig, Bryan Jeremy  
Cabuslay, Ronel  
Caja, Dieter  
Cercado, Ritchel  
Cuanan, Aijelet Mae  
Daano, Nemesio Jr.  
Danial, Jesson  
De Juan, Angelo  
De Pedro, Consuelo  
Dizon, Rossel  
Embin, Kristine  
Eslabon, Rica  
Farofaldane, Neil  
Figuración, James Dale  
Gallego, Jeneza  
Gallego, Jeneza  
Gino, Christian  
Gilva, Charlane  
Hedoquio, Angelica  
Lubria, Lorie Joy  
Magbanua, Joe Francis  
Mahilum, Shinarose  
Mahinay, Jay-Ar Pol  
Malbacias, Jessabel  
Mamalias, Reymark  
Matunog, Mark Wendell  
Pagcay, Judy Ann A.  
Pascual, Vincent Dhen  
Ralla, Jayvee  
Revilla, Nestylene  
Robles, Cherry Mae  
Sauro, Henry James  
Serra, Willie Jun  
Sumahit, Wraylon  
Torres, Kate  
Uy, Kryzl Gwyne  
Valero, Marie Antoinette

### **MSU-GenSan marks 51.85% institutional passing rate in October 2022 Electronics Engineering Licensure Examination**

List of our new Electronics Engineers:

Aguirre, Mark Junas  
Bacquiario II, Jeremiah Jessie  
Barluado, Eljie  
Camsa, Datu Akmad Sean  
Doctor, Joshua  
Gandola, Frenzi Anne  
Lachica, Freedom Philip  
Nasam, Jerico  
Ortiz, John Rannilo  
Parreño, Liendon Joey  
Rabia, Mark John  
Serapio, Ralph Daniel  
Tabanao, Vanessa Kate  
Taclindomi, Alanis Jane

### **MSU-GenSan clinches 33.33% institutional passing rate in October 2022 CPA Licensure Examination**

List of new Certified Public Accountants:

Calaque, Jose Gabriel Francis D.  
Catalina, Earl Dionne S.  
Pama, Krizzle Kezia N.  
Provido, Chrishieldawn P.  
Tadena, Mabelle G.  
Landro, Ilyn T.  
Piolo, Clark Jhon D.  
Olaver, Edralyn M.

### **MSU-GenSan marks 46.48% passing rate in the November 2022 Civil Engineering (CE) Licensure Examination**

List of our new Civil Engineers:

Abas, Aljamier S.  
Abdul Manap, Jehan U.  
Ajoc, Donna Belle M.  
Balles, Lenie Glenn B.  
Calanao, Joshur S.  
Coloma, Jaymar H.  
Curambao, Angelica R.

Dapanas, Nicole Valerie F.  
De Juan, Ryan C.  
Dela Rosa, Carlo B.  
Diez, James Victor Fabio T.  
Dionio, Pamela Kaye F.  
Dongosa, Crestine Lily O.  
Hagoriles, John Lloyd N.  
Hismania, Sheenarenz Marie  
Hulguin, Klein Edu E.  
Imperial, John Eric Ferdinand S.  
Gerasmo, Cyrus Russel II R.  
Langga, Dannel D.  
Lim, Kenneth Anthony N.  
Maningding, Novelyn Kate R.  
Matabang, Louise Angeleila Grace S.  
Navasquez, Jeff Alvin M.  
Onio, Joseph Irvin  
Padios, Honey Love M.  
Palalid, Ebonne Keith P.  
Rañoa, Clint Bill Ray A.  
Relunio, Queen Yvonne T.  
Salik, Juljamine B.  
Silongan, Al-Muhaymin Hadji D.  
Sobrio, Louel Jay S.  
Torzar, Michi Ven P.  
Tuazon, Khrizel Lee P.

### **MSU-GenSan logs 58.82% passing rate in the November 2022 Agriculturist Licensure Examination**

List of our new Agriculturists:

Acla, Arshen M.  
Agramon, Mark Vincent C.  
Alavarta, Charmaine P.  
Albert, Jeaneylle D.  
Alegado, Jade A.  
Amparado, Amery F.  
Anab, Zhyryl Wyn S.  
Apura, Jesse Jasper A.  
Arinzol, Micah D.  
Armilla, Ericha Lea L.  
Artajo, Marie Joy G.  
Artemio, Marlo Jr F.  
Asenerio, Jovanie O.  
Barroga, Patricia T.  
Barsalote, Philip Alfred B.  
Basilio, James Paul B.  
Beloncio, Cathilyn F.  
Beloncio, Nia F.



# S' CORNER

Berba, Joana Marie B.  
 Capricho, Marianne Joyce C.  
 Casing, Jesthony L.  
 Clata, Hazel May P.  
 Daroca, Arianne Kris  
 De la Cruz, James Freeman R.  
 De leon, Pearl Aubrey  
 Delos Santos, Mariel N.  
 Diamale, Mariane P.  
 Dinopol, Mark Jeruvilla T.  
 Ducusin, Honey Jyl M.  
 Dumpa, Deveraughx Grauben M.  
 Escalante, Champagne T.  
 Espenida, Samera M.  
 Fuentes, Jovele  
 Gabat, Dannibelle D.  
 Gagula, Jomaira A.  
 Gallardo, Jonelle E.  
 Gil, Jihad C.  
 Granada, Michaela V.  
 Gurondiano, Ralph Jade B.  
 Hipolito, Reavin B.  
 Joaquin, Haneza C.  
 Jovita, Ricardo Jr G.  
 Kusain, Soraine A.  
 Lacson, Aimee D.  
 Lasiste, John Raymund G.  
 Lozano, MARK Neil B.  
 Macalumba, Adzmi M.  
 Macot, Shieda M.  
 Malik, Dorrisa I.  
 Mana-ay, Vincent Glen R.  
 Mangantang, Zenaida S.  
 Matias, Kayle Rose L.  
 Miana, John Paul S.  
 Monton, Myca Jane C.  
 Montotn, Marilyn C.  
 Naga, Janicka V.  
 Natividad, Aeron D.  
 Navat, Michael Joseph N.  
 Noquial, Jyll-Lynn E.  
 Ocot, Jonard Rey T.  
 Orpilla, Vina Ayesa M.  
 Pablo, Kim Wilfred G.  
 Panal, Marje Pearl B.  
 Pangandaman, Sittie Sief B.  
 Patadon, Edres G.  
 Peralta, Kent Anthony A.  
 Pillo, Kenneth Joy S.  
 Quinatac-an, Sarah Faith E.  
 Ramos, Melody A.  
 Raneses, Lowei P.  
 Reyes, Jaime Jr s.  
 Reyes, Zipporah Marie G.  
 Salce, Joshua P.  
 Salcedo, Lindsay O.  
 Saluna, Aira Shayne E.  
 Sandag, Nakkam T.  
 Saydin, Mohamad Baser J.  
 Sierra, Lyka Vera B.  
 Sinahon, Grace Joy T.

Soliva, Chritynyme Cyrene B.  
 Suyao, Seth Althea B.  
 Tablo, Melvinch M.  
 Tacbil, Norain W.  
 Taccodoro, Carmela A.  
 Talino, Kristelle John P.  
 Tantong, Iyad A.  
 Teleron, Lorraine I.  
 Tobongbanua, Angel N.  
 Tuerco, Raymund Joseph N.  
 Tumala, Frederic B.  
 Tumanan, Stephen Dave Q.  
 Ulanday, Donna Chris L.  
 Ulo, Jayson John K.  
 Unotan, Benzar K.  
 Valdez, John Gabrielle G.  
 Valer, Gretchen S.  
 Villanueva, Marneth Y.  
 Yasana, Art John M.  
 Yonido, Jelly May S.  
 Yparraguire, Aaron Pete S.

## **MSU – GenSan ranks 5th and logs 78.13% passing rate in the February 2023 Mechanical Engineering (ME) Licensure Examination**

List of new Mechanical Engineers:

Ali, Alimir Guintawan  
 Alisbo, Edlyn Ria Aninipot  
 Apurada, Mar Adrielle Pingol  
 Bantilan, Eduard John Sioco  
 Bantulo, Angel Hope Puzon  
 Cabangcala, Joemarc Hizon  
 Canonigo, Mohammad Rafi Tahir  
 Cimeni, John Rexlanz Lising  
 Cortez, Jared Lance Galve  
 Diaz, Frances Thea Fernandez  
 Dolar, Manuel Jayson Delos Santos  
 Gonzaga, Renz Edrian Ginson  
 Legada, Paolo Pineda  
 Manero, Raphael Mallorca  
 Mesa, Veronica Wayne Apura  
 Orario, Klarence Niel Caneda  
 Pajarillo, Laurence Lee (Top 5)  
 Peñol, Jaynard Arañador  
 Pulmano, Rhyann Mark Progreso  
 Saturinas, Noryl John Mates  
 Serviento, Bedlam Bendor  
 Subere Elaiza Jane Cepria  
 Suyo, Ireen May Bless Dabuco  
 Tiangan, Ellian John Salo  
 Villegas, Johnrex Tribunalo

## **MSU – GenSan ranks 6th and logs 54.76% passing rate in the April 2023 Electronics Engineering (ECE) Licensure Examination**

List of new Electronics Engineers:

Acebedo, Pauline Joy B.  
 Alayon, Jio R.

Bacalso, Marx Louise G.  
 Beceos, Isabel Joyce H.  
 Bullena, Diane Therese P.  
 Ca-ong, Lloyd Jayson L.  
 Casero, Mark John Lerry A.  
 Daligdig, Arianne Dale O.  
 Dignadice, Allan Ace (Top 6)  
 Falate, Esther Faith B.  
 Flores, Duke Neilzen B.  
 Garcia, Shena Mae B.  
 Gepulla, Randy P.  
 Guiral, Jan Marie E.  
 Lasutan, Jan Marc G.  
 Mozo, Raineer A.  
 Necesito, Michael John T.  
 Orcullo, Carl Jev F.  
 Santos, Michelle S.  
 Solatorio, Myles Antonette R.  
 Sugsi, Brandon C.  
 Tagalog, Mikhaela C.  
 Usero, Sev Jadrose E.

## **MSU – GenSan logs 83.33% passing rate in the April 2023 Electronics Technicians (ECT) Licensure Examination**

List of new Electronics Technicians:

Alayon, Jio  
 Bacalso, Marx Louise  
 Beceos, Isabel Joyce  
 Ca-Ong, Lloyd Jayson  
 Casero, Mark John Lerry  
 Cerado, Jaztiene Dianne  
 Daligdig, Arianne Dale  
 Dignadice, Allan Ace  
 Falate, Esther Grace  
 Farouq, Sittie Rheham  
 Flores, Duke Neilzen  
 Fuentespina, Jane  
 Guiral, Jan Marie  
 Hidalgo, Lloyd Joseph  
 Inocencio, Noefe  
 Lasutan, Jan Marc  
 Miravalles, Kemeul  
 Mozo, Raineer  
 Necesito, Michael John  
 Olmedo, Raymond  
 Pongcol, Genevieve  
 Punay, Princess Claire  
 Serenuela, Kim Harvey  
 Solatorio, Myles Antonette  
 Sugsi, Brandon  
 Sustento, Princess Jean  
 Tagalog, Mikhaela  
 Teves, Chloee Faith  
 Usero, Sev Jadrose  
 Ytac, Jovelyn





Mr. Briane Jay Casas receives his plaque of recognition given by Andres M. Tuates (right), ABE President, Philippine Society of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineer during the 72nd PSABE Annual National Convention.

## MSU STUDE EARNs 2023 PSABE NATCON'S MOST OUTSTANDING STUDENT LEADER

| Francis James Lanciola, Joe Ann Acana - 3rd year- BSABE

Briane Jay Casas, a fourth-year student of the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, was awarded as the Most Outstanding Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (ABE) Student for his remarkable contributions in the fields of leadership, academics, and community service during the recent 72nd PSABE Annual National Convention held at SMX Mall of Asia, Pasay City on April 24-28, 2023.

In concordance with the annual celebration of the 34th Philippine Agricultural Engineering Week and 19th International Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Conference, with the theme "Agricultural and Biosystems Engineer: Strong Leaders and Key Innovation toward a Sustainable food-secured Philippines," the event showcased the vision and mission of AB Engineers in various aspects, from production to post-harvest and processing, highlighting their contributions to the agriculture sector, food security, and technological advancement.

This year's awardee of the most outstanding ABE student leader won the award, fulfilling certain requirements based on specific

conditions that reflected his participation and contributions to the school, PSABE-PPG of MSU-GSC Chapter, and the community.

As an active member of various organizations, Casas gained strength and motivation in handling situations and leading people. Not only was he one of the top students in the College of Agriculture, but he was also highly regarded for his capabilities and intelligence, both in academic work and in his involvement in social and societal initiatives.

Upon receiving the award, he expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to pay tribute to the institution that had shaped him into a versatile individual capable of handling pressure, stress, and challenges in academics and personal life. Despite facing criticism, failures, exhaustion, and struggles with assignments, he remained resilient and self-aware, understanding the process and appreciating the journey.

When asked how he became the most outstanding ABE Student Leader, he said, "In my realization, maybe it was because I had surrendered all my plans to the Lord. Surrendering them meant passionately doing good things for others, apologizing when I made

mistakes, seeking guidance, and appreciating His Great Glory." He believed that surrendering his plans to the Lord allowed him to work passionately, seeking guidance through prayer and praise.

"The day I started surrendering my plans was the day I became content, more appreciative, understanding, wiser, and fulfilled in everything I did. I believe this is why I received this award," he added.

Casas acknowledged that college life wasn't without challenges, but he found solace in placing his trust in Jesus, knowing that guidance, discipline, and favor would abundantly flow. He encouraged others to rely on and seek the Lord's supervision in completing their tasks.

He expressed his gratitude to the University Chancellor, faculty of the ABE Department, friends, and family for their support. He saw his achievements as a testament to his sense of purpose and determination in serving people and the community, and as motivation to continue striving for more milestones and reaching new heights in his journey.

Furthermore, some students zealously represented the Mindanao State University Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering in currently celebrated conventions, bringing honor and pride not only to the department but also to the institution itself.

They were awarded a special recognition for having the most delegates and the largest registered members in the Philippine Society of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering.

Special appreciation went to Arnel Dela Cruz, who grabbed second place in Salakot Painting, exhibiting his artistic strokes of designs and paints on a salakot.

Moreover, Bench Mark Corporal, Marslegen Quisto, and Jackielou Paches also deserved recognition for their excellent performance in an academic quiz, receiving a fourth-place award.

The Mindanao State University truly stood as a home of topnotchers, showcasing the wit, skill, capacity, and active participation of every student towards excellence and appreciation.



Prof. Mary Christ D. Canapit preps with the student quizzers from the College of Business Administration and Accountancy (from right to left) Shandell P. Ferenal, Bethany B. Lanzuela, and Eden Barbiel Umadhay during the CEBA International Quiz Bee 2022.

## CBA&A BAGS 4TH PLACE IN CEBA INTERNATIONAL QUIZ BEE 2022

| Mercy Babao, 1st Year, BS-BA Human Resource Management

The Philippines won 4th place in the College of Economics and Business Administration (CEBA) International Business Quiz Bee 2022, which was participated by seventy-four (74) teams from twenty-eight (28) participating schools in Oman, India, and the Philippines on December 6-8, 2022.

This was represented by students from the College of Business Administration and Accountancy (CBAA) of MSU-GenSan, Bethany Lanzuela of BSBA

Human Resource Management, Shandell Ferenal of BSBA Marketing Management, and Eden Barbiel Umadhay of BS Accountancy, with their coach, Ms. Mary Christ D. Canapit, MBA, and organized by the University of Technology and Applied Sciences, a public university in Oman that aims to promote the academic excellence of the participants, expand their knowledge of various principles and courses of study of business, and gain experience in an academic competition.

Furthermore, the MSU-GenSan contestant showed intelligence and ingenuity in the preliminary round and got first place, allowing them to move on to the next round.

The CBAA participants who represented the country in the final round did not waver, and with knowledge and determination until the end, they got fourth place against 74 participants who gave honor not only to the College of Business Administration and Accountancy of MSU GenSan but also to the Philippines.





Vice-Chancellor Dr. Mishell D. Lawas, together with the Junior Institute of Electronics Engineers of the Philippines members from MSU-GenSan pose with their trophy after bagging first runner-up in the National "BIT THE BEES" Quiz during the IECEP National Student Summit 2022.

## ENGINEERING QUIZZERS DOMINATE NATIONAL, REGIONAL COMPETITIONS

| Keziah Jan Marie Balandó, 3rd Year-BSCE

Students from the College of Engineering of Mindanao State University-General Santos showed their excellence and prowess as they dominated the fierce field of different competitions throughout Region XII, bagging championships and awards in region-wide events of each department.

ASTEEG's triumph kicked off as the Junior Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers students prevailed in different competitions. Alliza Canda, a first-year student, took home third place in the 26th Philippine Statistics Quiz Sargenwide last October 21, 2022, and became a qualifier for the Philippine Statistics Quiz Regional Championship. Other students from JPSME, Alkhapidz Jabarani, Shaina Uy, and John Romar Lademora, also demonstrated brilliance as they bagged the Championship during the 10th PSME Mindanao Regional Conference 2022, defeating contestants from different universities around Mindanao last August 19, 2022, in General Santos City.

Another pride of the College of

Engineering is students from the Society of Electrical Engineering Students, namely Robertson Mantalaba, Robert James Diaz, Liezl Grace Ortega, Janry Cerezo, and Karl John Fernandez, who proved that the students of MSU-GenSan are in different leagues as they gripped the first runner up in the 21st Regional Math Wizard during the 17th IEEE Regional Student Conference last October 27, 2022, securing a spot to the National Math Wizard Competition. At the same conference event, Karl John Fernandez, Job Ladiona, Kenny Ann Basin, Angelica Shaina Wite, and Robertson Mantalaba obtained third place in the Regional Quiz Show held on October 28, 2022.

Success continues as out of 24 contenders from the participating schools around the Philippines, a batch of students from the Junior Institute of Electronics Engineers of the Philippines - GSC emerged as a victor, winning first runner-up in the National "BIT THE BEES" Quiz shows as part of the IECEP National Student Summit 2022 held

at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay, Metro Manila last November 16, 2022. Jethro Batislaong, Yursa Hana Ambia, Clarence Mharc Cobrador, Diosdado Buslon, Laurenz Clyde Garcia, and Cid Jericho Turija are the great minds who represented MSU-GenSan.

ASTEEGs of the Association of Civil Engineering Students also demonstrated a bagCEK performance as Jassel Joi Jalandoni, Jem Berdida, and John Al Dominic Itang became qualifiers for the final round of the Kinetic Civil Engineering Quiz Competition. Out of 135 participants from 13 different schools around Region XII, Jem Berdida, a fourth-year Civil Engineering student, won first place during the PICE Regional Summit 2022 held at Brgy. Lagao, General Santos City, last February 11, 2023.

Indeed, these achievements have proven the excellence of an ASTEEG MSUAN, bringing pride and honor to the institution and showcasing a globally competitive performance.

## CESO JOINS UNESCO CLUBS PH 2022, EDUC STUDS CHOSEN AS PH REP

| Rolando L. Baisac Jr., 3rd Year-BSBD Biology

Game changers and change makers, together!

Out of 125 applicants, the College of Education Students' Organization (CESO) sneaked into the top 25 and achieved the momentous UNESCO Club Accreditation of 2022- the first for MSU-GenSan! Upon deep scrutiny of each organization's advocacy and service, CESO leads the way by upholding the threefold university functions which are research, instruction, and extension.

Along with this milestone, the officers of the student organization were called to join the International Assembly of Youth for UNESCO held last 9th to 11th of December, 2022 held at Bayview Park Hotel, Manila. As the new members of the UNESCO Clubs, they received their accreditation certificate from the National Coordinating Body of UNESCO. Additionally, the representatives, namely, Rhoda May Ebad, Frank Jeay Montebon, Layca Jane Curit, Hazel Faelangca, and Krissa Ivy Navarez, attended the



College of Education Students Organization (CESO) student officials receive their certificate of recognition as one of the Top 25 chosen member organizations of the International Youth Assembly for UNESCO.

conference on achieving Sustainable Ocean in the same venue.

Aside from the organization's achievement, the CESO president, Rhoda May Ebad has made a pivotal appearance in the international platform by being chosen as the Philippines' representative at the UNESCO Education for Sustainable Development program (ESD)- Net 2030 Sub-regional consultation for East Asia and Southeast Asia which was held on March 10, 2023.

Carrying with her the mission, vision, and achievements of the College, Hon. Ebad attended online conferences organized by UNESCO along with 15 countries across the region to have a fruitful discussion on the progress, needs, challenges, and concrete implementation plans about the ESD, which is a part

of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda Goal 4. This network aims to facilitate the implementation of the ESD for 2030 framework and its roadmap by providing a platform of exchange and collaboration organized according to four (4) main objectives: 1) knowledge sharing and mutual learning, 2) advocacy, 3) collaboration, and 4) monitoring and evaluation.

The College of Education Students' Organization, the highest student council organization of the Mindanao State University-General Santos City College of Education has indeed made a remarkable feat as it continues to lead here and beyond. Truly a hallmark of leadership, progress, and change.







# MSU SYSTEM'S CULTURE AND ARTS CONVERGENCE 2023: FOSTERING PEACEBUILDING AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

[Jasmin T. Saricala

General Santos City, Mindanao - The Mindanao State University of General Santos City took center stage in fostering peacebuilding initiatives and cultural diversity through the recently concluded MSU System's Culture and Arts Convergence 2023. The event, held from February 22 to 27, featured a series of programs and activities to advancing the role of culture and arts in promoting peace and unity.

The convergence comprised three distinct components that worked in synergy to achieve its objectives: the Internship in the Management of Local Festivals, the Mindanao State University Culture and Arts Summit, and Cultural Performances by various campus Performing Groups.

The Kalilangan Festival 2023, organized by the Local Government Unit of General Santos City in collaboration with MSU-GenSan, served as the backdrop for an enriching internship program. MSU-GenSan's exceptional management of the Kalilangan Festival earned them three Best Local Festival Awards and a prestigious induction into the Department of Tourism's Hall of Fame. The partnership between MSU-GenSan and the city government presented a valuable opportunity to share their experiences in shaping and administering the festival, especially considering its significance as a platform for peacebuilding.

The successful internship, held from February 22 to 24, drew participants from various MSU campuses, including MSU-TCTO, MSU-Sulu, MSU-Maguindanao, MSU-Maigo, and MSU-LNCAT. Acting Chancellor Usman D. Aragasi, MPA warmly received the interns at the MSU-General Santos City Fatima Campus and the MSU-GenSan CETD Campus, where the Kalilangan Office was located. The interns actively engaged in the festival's ongoing activities, gaining invaluable hands-on experience and participating in thought-provoking learning sessions. These sessions deepened their understanding of the significance of cultural festivals, particularly the Kalilangan Festival, in promoting Peace through Culture and Arts.

During the internship, esteemed speakers such as Dr. Mario J. Aguja, Prof. Romeo F. Narvaez, and Dr. Alma Celesthia D. Aguja shared their expertise on topics including "MSU as the National Peace University," "Local Festivals as a Platform for Peacebuilding," and "Cultural Festival Management and the Role of University Cultural Office: The MSU-GenSan Experience." The presence of Mr. Oscar G. Casaysay, the Executive Director of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), further added to the motivation of the participants.

Participants of the Management of Local Festivals Internship program gained practical festival management skills through an in-depth overview of the Kalilangan Festival 2023 and hands-on experiences. The interns received a comprehensive festival matrix, an orientation on their schedules, and rules to enhance their learning. They obtained valuable insights into event planning, resource mobilization, security, and collaboration with the LGU and Kalilangan secretariats. Through observations and shadowing, the interns developed essential knowledge and skills. The internship concluded with a roundtable discussion where participants shared their experiences and outputs, contributing to a comprehensive assessment of the program.

As the program concluded, participants and facilitators received certificates in recognition for their dedication and hard work. Their impressions and appreciation for the knowledge gained during the internship were shared, marking a successful step towards developing and promoting local cultural festivals in their respective communities.

Parallel to the internship, the Mindanao State University Culture and Arts Summit brought together cultural managers, coordinators, and administrators from all 11 campuses of the MSU System. Held from February 25 to 27 at the MSU-GenSan CETD Campus in General Santos City, the summit aimed to establish a clear policy direction for promoting culture and arts and integrating them into MSU's peace-building initiatives. The event

provided a platform for participants to exchange ideas and initiatives on fostering cultural involvement among MSU constituents and students, enhancing cultural programs, and ensuring the sustainability of cultural performing groups and institutions.

Lectures given by Dr. Mario J. Aguja, Mr. Oscar G. Casaysay, and Prof. Romeo F. Narvaez highlighted the importance of culture and arts in peacebuilding efforts, specifically focusing on Mindanao State University's role as the National Peace University. Interactive workshops and small group discussions facilitated collaboration and the sharing of campus initiatives, enabling participants to address challenges and contribute to developing the MSU System's cultural programs.

The summit's culminating program included attendance at the Kalilangan ng Kabataang Heneral: Tri-People Youth Convergence, providing participants with a deeper understanding of local culture. The event concluded with the closing program of the Kalilangan Festival, where participants witnessed vibrant performances and celebrated the rich cultural heritage of General Santos City and its surrounding areas, fostering a greater appreciation for cultural diversity and unity.

Furthermore, the Culture and Arts Convergence showcased the talents of various campus performing groups. Representatives from MSU-Sulu, MSU-TCTO, and MSU-GenSan collaborated under the direction of Prof. Romeo Narvaez to present their unique cultural performances. Their captivating performances underscored the diversity and creativity within the MSU community, emphasizing the significance of cultural exchange and collaboration.

The Culture and Arts Convergence 2023 showcased the MSU System's commitment to its mandate of promoting peace and integration among the diverse communities of the Southern Philippines. By providing participants with practical experience, knowledge, and a shared vision, the MSU System is actively shaping a brighter and more culturally vibrant future for Mindanao.





# Aragasi: "Our mission is to

| John Jay L.

*"They say wherever you go, there is always a Mindanaoan. Most of their sharing, one can conclude that MSU has been the fortitude of not just for themselves but for their families, contribu*

This is the beginning anecdote of the sharing of the

Continuing quality education through realizing its mandate in improving the living condition of the Muslims and Indigenous Peoples across the islands, Mindanao State University, General Santos City, has been gearing towards excellence in promoting standards in delivering instruction, research, and extension and production among its constituents and its primary stakeholders.

The MSU-General Santos, with its good Chancellor, JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA, spearheaded various initiatives to improve different aspects of the university, such as the physical facilities, faculty and staff development, curriculum and instruction, collaborations, and linkages. The plans become feasible and realistic with the help of different colleges and departments in the university.

The construction of phase two of the new gymnasium is currently being lobbied in different funding agencies, both government and non-government institutions. Initially a project of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the university sees the potential of the infrastructure to become a significant landmark where grand and historical events take place.

Moreover, since Chancellor Aragasi was appointed as the Acting Chancellor, he has prioritized faculty and staff development through a series of dialogues with the Department of Budget and Management to secure additional plantilla for faculty and administrative positions. This is the management's sustainable solution to cater to having an equitable number of actual members of students and the quality of service given by the institution.

Moreover, the establishment of the Regional Center for Psychological Assessment and Research Services (RCPARS) supports different research

projects dedicated to improving psychological well-being not only in the region but also for different nearby communities in conjunction with a range of external collaborators. The RCPRAS is our collective response to the growing concerns about mental health illnesses and our compliance with various laws regarding mental health. RA 11036 (The Mental Health Act) is an Act of establishing a National Mental Health Policy for the purpose of enhancing the delivery of integrated mental health services promoting and protecting the rights of persons utilizing psychosocial health services, appropriating funds therefore, and other purposes.

On the other hand, with the growing student population, the University planned to create more academic programs, especially in the College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences, like the BS in Nursing and BS in Medical Technology. Also, the institution will have BS in Agriculture, major in Horticulture, BS in Agriculture, major in Agricultural Extension, BS in Public Administration, and more graduate programs to maintain its status as one of the leading universities in the region.

During one of his speeches, Chancellor Aragasi shared that collaboration is his favorite word, "The way we deal with the world has changed. One institution specializes in one area, and the other in a different niche. Thus, by understanding and appreciating our specialization, we collaborate, we cooperate, and help each other achieve our common goal." With this guiding principle, collaboration for public domains and international linkages has been acknowledged as one of the strengths of his leadership and management.

This past five years, MSU, General Santos has invested great efforts as a leader in becoming



# to empower Mindanaoans”

. Morido, LPT

*them are alumni of Mindanao State University. In the midst of their success. MSU plays a big role in giving them a better life, contributing to the greater benefit of the community.”*

Acting Chancellor, JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA.

a National Peace University. Recently, the University tied up with the Presidential Adviser for Peace, Reconciliation, and Unity for community transformation, help in the peace process, and forge development.

The MSU-General Santos has achieved many heights and has no plan to slow down in continuing its mandates and goals to better lives and open more opportunities in Southern Philippines. Now more than ever we hold the truth that our mission is to empower Mindanaoans. MSU will take on the world, but first, it must pour its effort and dedication into the people to whom its mandates trust.







# 1<sup>ST</sup> MINDANAO RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT



Edrian Tomines, Berry L.

The 1st Mindanao State University System Research, Extension, and Internationalization (REI) Summit kicked off last May 4-6, 2023 at the Grand Summit Hotel, General Santos City. To foster collaboration, innovation, and growth in REI among the MSU campuses, the summit provided a platform for sharing ideas, experiences, and best practices while promoting a culture of excellence. Under the theme "International Visibility and Increasing Public Value through Research and Extension," the summit focused on the pressing challenges faced by academia today. The need for global

competitiveness and increasing public value have become crucial, and the MSU System recognizes the importance of collaborative research, community service, and internationalization efforts to address these challenges.

Hosted by MSU-General Santos and co-hosted by MSU-Iligan Institute of Technology, the summit saw remarkable attendance from all MSU campuses, with a total of 333 participants. Among the attendees, MSU-GenSan had the highest representation with 114 individuals, followed by MSU-MSAT with 59 participants, and MSU-Marawi with 51 attendees. Other campuses also had significant participation, including MSU-IIT (37), MSU-TCTO (30), MSU-Sulu (19), MSU-Maguindanao (9), MSU-Naawan (9), MSU-LNCAT (8), MSU-LNAC (7), MSU-Buug (5), and MSU-Bataraza (2).

During the opening ceremony, MSU-GenSan Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA highlighted the importance of communication and knowledge sharing among MSU campuses. He emphasized that the REI Summit, being the first in the MSU System, is a historical opportunity for MSU to come together as one and work in collaboration in boosting its REI efforts. General Santos City Mayor, Hon. Lorelei G. Pacquiao duly represented by Executive Assistant Johnrex Galdo was present in full support of the event. In her speech, Hon. Pacquiao emphasized the role of research, extension, and internationalization in advancing the development and socioeconomic gains of the city and

the region. On the other hand, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Mishell D. Lawas provided the Summit Rationale and stressed the need for standardization and unity across all MSU campuses.

Atty. Basari D. Mapupuno, the President of the MSU System, gave the keynote speech at the summit and remarked on the significance of partnerships and collaborations with relevant institutions, local government units, and international organizations. He underscored the role of research, extension, and internationalization in addressing real-world challenges and driving sustainable development.

Distinguished experts delivered plenary talks on various relevant topics, including research and development, entrepreneurship, community resilience, and internationalization efforts among others. The plenary talks are as follows: (1) Challenges and Opportunities of Developing Ideas to Commercialization by Dr. Gerard G. Dumancas of the University of Scranton, Pennsylvania; (2) Enhancing Community Resilience through Research and Extension in The Next Normal by Dr. Rowena dT. Bacongus, Dean, College of Public Affairs and Development, University of the Philippines - Los Baños; (3) Towards a World-Class University Dr. Gaudencio C. Petalcorin, Jr., Vice-Chancellor for Research and Enterprise, MSU-IIT; (4) MSUS Internationalization in Research: Theory, Reality and Way Forward by Atty. Renato S. Pacaldo, Acting Executive Director, Office of International Affairs and Linkages, MSU System; and (5) Strategic Internationalization





Maureen & Romeo Tejada, Jr.

Plan (SIP): Leading MSU to the World by Dr. Joey Genevieve T. Martinez, Vice Chancellor for International Affairs, MSU-IIT. After every plenary talk, an open forum commenced which sparked discussions around transforming ideas into commercial ventures, enhancing community resilience in the post-pandemic era, and aligning research goals with CHED and SDGs among others.

A forum with Heads of REI Offices of Various Campuses also provided valuable insights and discussions on REI strategies and challenges. Thereafter, attendees got the time to witness the campuses' showcases through a poster and product gallery set up outside the ballroom venue. Various products were also put on display and on sale which served as a fun opportunity for the attendees to mingle and connect. As Day 1 concluded, participants were inspired by the insights from the plenary talks and engaged in discussions and fora.

In a punctuated part of the program, the summit witnessed the awarding of the Certificate of Program Compliance (COPC) to select programs of MSU-GSC, symbolizing their compliance with CHED's policies and standards.

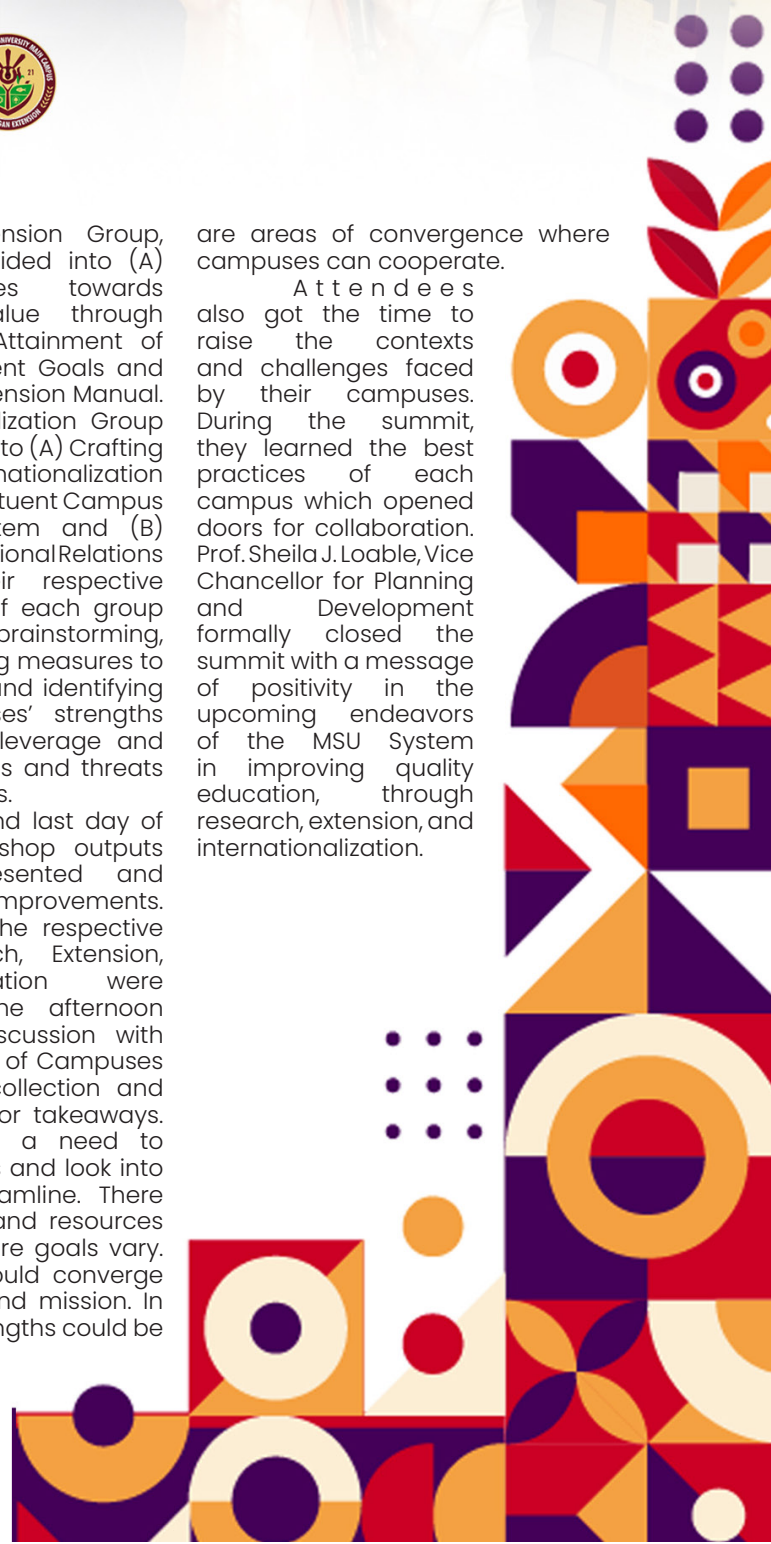
Day 2 kicked off with parallel workshops where participants were divided into three groups, namely: Research, Extension, and Internationalization. For the Research Group, the workshop was divided into (A) Developing Strategies towards Research Quality and Enabling Research Environment and (B) Harmonizing the Research

Manual. For the Extension Group, the workshop was divided into (A) Developing Strategies towards Increasing Public Value through Contributions to the Attainment of Sustainable Development Goals and (B) Harmonizing the Extension Manual. Lastly, the Internationalization Group workshop was divided into (A) Crafting of the Strategic Internationalization Plan (SIP) of each Constituent Campus of the University System and (B) Harmonizing the International Relations Manual. Led by their respective facilitators, members of each group spent a day's work brainstorming, discussing, and planning measures to bolster the REI of MSU and identifying each of the campuses' strengths and opportunities for leverage and overcoming weaknesses and threats that may hinder success.

On the third and last day of the summit, the workshop outputs submitted were presented and critiqued for further improvements. The salient points of the respective manuals on Research, Extension, and Internationalization were also presented. In the afternoon session, the panel discussion with Chancellors and Heads of Campuses commenced as a recollection and an assessment of major takeaways. In summary, there is a need to harmonize the manuals and look into specific areas to streamline. There are different contexts and resources among institutions where goals vary. However, campuses could converge into the same vision and mission. In terms of programs, strengths could be leveraged. Although contexts differ, there

are areas of convergence where campuses can cooperate.

Attendees also got the time to raise the contexts and challenges faced by their campuses. During the summit, they learned the best practices of each campus which opened doors for collaboration. Prof. Sheila J. Loable, Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development formally closed the summit with a message of positivity in the upcoming endeavors of the MSU System in improving quality education, through research, extension, and internationalization.







MSU System President, Atty. Basari D. Mapupuno (second to the right) and Acting Chancellor, JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA (right) receive the COPC from CHEDRO XII Regional Director, Dr. Nelia Alibin (middle), Asst. Director, Dr. Zohrayda Naga Panawidan (in pink) and CHEDRO XII QAD, Dr. Anabelle Dafielmoto (in green) during the MSU System Research, Extension, and Internationalization Summit 2023.

## UNIVERSITY RECEIVES COPC FOR 14 PROGRAMS

| Monlouie M. Sorzano, MA

The Commission on Higher Education Regional Office (CHEDRO) XII awarded the Certificates of Program Compliance (COPC) of fourteen programs of the University in time for the opening program of the 1st MSU System Research, Extension, and Internationalization Summit at the Grand Summit Hotel last May 4, 2023.

The programs that received their COPC are the following: BA in Political Science, BA in Filipino, BS in Biology, BS in Information Technology, BS in Mathematics, BS in Accountancy, BS in Economics, BS in Business Administration - Human Resource Management, BS in Business Administration - Marketing Management, Bachelor of Secondary Education (BSEd) - Biology, BSEd - English, BSEd - Filipino, BSEd - Mathematics, and Bachelor in Elementary Education. The certificates were awarded personally by CHEDRO

XII Director, Dr. Nelia A. Alibin, and were received by Acting Chancellor, JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA, and duly witnessed by MSU System President, Atty. Basari D. Mapupuno and attendees of the summit.

The Certificate of Program Compliance (COPC) is a recognition that the degree program offered by a state university or college, local university, or college is fully compliant with the policies, standards, and guidelines of CHED. This is in accordance with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act (RA) 7722 otherwise known as the "Higher Education Act of 1994."

The awarding of the COPC followed after a series of virtual and in-person inspections which ascertained the readiness and capability of the programs in terms of Administration, Faculty, Curriculum, Library, Laboratories, Student Services,

Physical Facilities, and other significant engagements. The Regional Quality Assessment Team (RQAT) of CHEDRO XII carried out a comprehensive review of the documentary requirements submitted by the programs as well as a series of interviews to dig deeper into the program's compliance with CHED's standards.

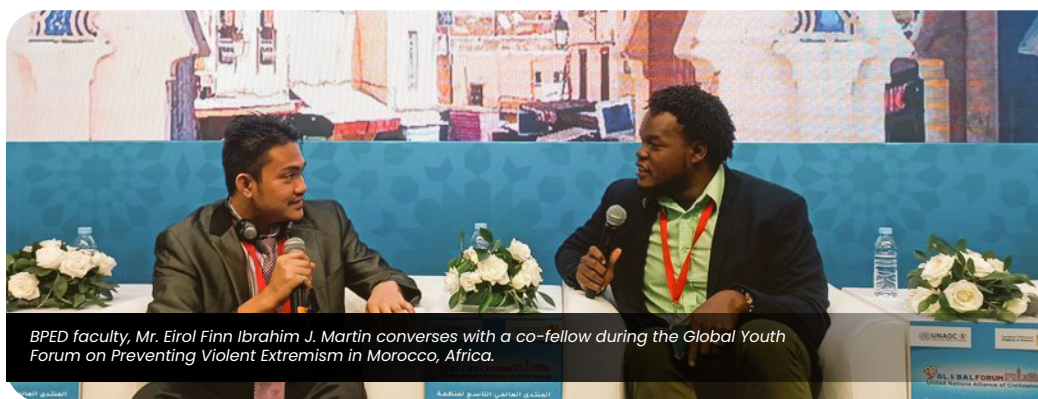
Receiving the COPC signifies that the programs of the University have lived up to reputable standards as validated by CHED. This assures its stakeholders that the University has consistently developed the quality of its instruction along with other success indicators relevant to its research, extension, and production capabilities. As it pushes forward with its other accreditation activities, the University maintains the same level of commitment to standards corollary to these certificates.

## BPED FACULTY REPRESENTS PH IN GLOBAL YOUTH FORUM, HIGHLIGHTS SPORTS FOR PEACE

| Brian Jay B. Baybayan,  
2nd Year-BSED English

Mr. Eirol Finn Ibrahim J. Martin, faculty member of the Bachelor of Physical Education department, Mindanao State University-General Santos City College of Education, represented the Philippines in the 9th Global Youth Forum on Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) through Sports with the theme "Towards an Alliance of Peace: Living Together as One Humanity," in Fez, Morocco, Africa, on November 21-23, 2022.

Organized by the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), in collaboration with the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), and the International Centre for Sport Security (ICCS), this event was attended by stakeholders on sports, PVE, and youth engagement around the world to develop innovative policies, strengthen the role of sporting events through international cooperation, and promote youth participation in national and regional



BPED faculty, Mr. Eirol Finn Ibrahim J. Martin converses with a co-fellow during the Global Youth Forum on Preventing Violent Extremism in Morocco, Africa.

PVE strategies in fostering sustainable peace and development.

Martin had the chance to speak about "Sports as a vector for peace and inclusiveness," which mainly discussed the innovation in PVE through sports strategies and evidence-based policymaking, whereas he integrated his experience as a Marawi siege survivor.

In an interview, Martin said that his experience is what helped him promulgate recommendations during the youth consultation policy and hopes that the UNAOC and its partners in policymaking consider his suggestions for the development of global peace through sports.

"I felt a sense of achievement, fulfillment, and gratification after I shared my story as a Marawi siege survivor at the podium during the UNAOC Global Forum,"

Martin said.

"My experience is what helped in my recommendation and amendments during the youth consultation policy recommendations for the Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events, and the Promotion of Sport and its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism which I have also presented," he added.

The forum did not merely engage the youth in the decision-making policies of the Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events, and the Promotion of Sport and its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism, but it also allowed the participants to access information on the primary worldwide and regional tools, frameworks, reports, programs, and activities relevant to the use of sport and its ideals as a tool to combat violent extremism.





## NINE PROGRAMS UNDERGO AACUP LEVEL II, III ACCREDITATION SURVEY VISIT

| Monlouie M. Sorzano, MA

Mindanao State University - General Santos subjected nine of its programs to Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACUP) Level II and III online accreditation survey visit last April 10-14, 2023.

For Level II accreditation, the programs subjected to survey visits were BS in Accountancy and Master in Public Administration. On the other hand, BS in Information Technology, BS in Biology, BS in Mathematics, Bachelor of Secondary Education, Bachelor of Elementary Education, BA in Filipino, and PhD in Educational Management were surveyed for Level III accreditation.

The programs were evaluated under ten areas, namely: VMGO, Faculty, Curriculum & Instruction, Support to Students, Research, Extension & Community Involvement, Library, Physical Plant & Facilities, Laboratories, and Administration. Focal persons from their respective programs were tasked to consolidate necessary documentary requirements and deliver outputs of their assigned areas for the inspection of the accreditors. These documents were a product of the collaborative efforts of the administration, faculty, staff, students, and other stakeholders of the programs. The accreditation preparations were supervised by the Quality Assurance and Management Services Office (QuAMSO) of the

University.

Before the online survey visit, accreditors had a preliminary evaluation of the documents submitted by the programs. After that, the opening program was conducted last April 11, 2023, at the Conference Room, Administration Building. The program featured the giving of the Statement of Purpose and introduction of the AACUP Survey team led respectively by Dr. Erlinda J. Porcincula of Camarines Norte State College, Overall Coordinator of the Level II Survey Team, and Dr. Cecilio L. Manarpaac of Palawan State University, Overall Coordinator of Level III Survey Team. University officials, deans, and accreditation teams composed of faculty members of the programs were in attendance. The program served to commence the week-long survey visit of the accreditors.

In the succeeding days, the programs underwent a comprehensive evaluation which included virtual tours of facilities and laboratories and interviews with administrators, faculty, students, alums, research and extension partners, and other stakeholders. Classroom observations were also done to supplement documentary evaluations and interviews.

In an exit conference last April 14, 2023, the accreditors delivered their findings of the programs evaluated. The conference was highlighted by

giving the general impression of the AACUP Survey Team to which the college deans responded.

They also manifested commitment to continuously improving compliance to standards of the areas evaluated and the performance of their programs in general. The online accreditation survey visit yielded generally positive results with a few points for improvement by the programs. They will submit reports of compliance to address some of the findings of the accreditors. The exit conference also included the pledge of commitment of Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA, a message from the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Mishell D. Lawas, PECE, and remarks from QuAMSO Director, Prof. Ronald P. Sombero. Showing their full support, Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension, Dr. Jaime A. Namocatcat, and Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development, Prof. Sheila J. Loable led the awarding of certificates.

The week-long online accreditation survey visit has proven to be a learning experience for the University as it holds its programs to the highest standards. As it moves forward to the next accreditation activities of programs scheduled for survey visits, the University continues to uphold excellence in the academe and committed service to all its stakeholders.



# OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS AND SERVICES SPEARHEADS VARIOUS STUDENT-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Rhumer S. Lañojan, MAEd, Norlene Kaye S. Tariman & Jhon Lester G. Canto

The CMO 9 series of 2013 stipulated that basic services which promote the well-being of students should be put in place in any Higher Education Institution. These services include but not limited to information, orientation, and awareness campaigns and programs to be conducted regularly for new and continuing students responsive to their needs and total development. Moreover, it stated that the students' enjoyment of their rights shall be balanced by the exercise of accountability and social responsibility, that is, for every right enjoyed there is a corresponding duty and accountability. With these at hand, the Office of Students Affairs and Services conducted various activities that focus on some important and immediate concerns directly affecting the students. These activities include the Seminar on Basic Accounting for Non-Accountants; Symposium on Various Republic Acts; and the NSTP Syllabus Making Cum Gender-Sensitivity Training.

The seminar-workshop on Basic Accounting for Non-Accountants cum financial literacy forum held on April 26, 2023, at the OSA Students Support Center

welcomed auditors and treasurers from various student organizations. There are perennial problems experienced by the office with regard to a messy, unorganized, and non-standardized format in coming up with their financial reports. Hence, it has become the prime objective of the seminar to provide non-accountant treasurers and auditors with essential knowledge and skills to effectively produce and understand financial statements, interpret financial data, and make informed decisions.

The first resource speaker, Mr. Gerson Jan S. Guinanas, a licensed financial wealth planner at FWD Life Philippines, delivered a presentation on the significance of financial literacy and how to hack your way to financial freedom. The second resource speaker, Professor Michael G. Auditor, a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), delivered a talk on the importance of checks and balances, the proper management of cash inflows and outflows, and the significance of maintaining accurate financial records for organizations' Treasurers and Auditors.

In general, programs that combine basic accounting for non-accountants with financial literacy play a crucial role in empowering student organizations without an accounting background. These programs provide them with the

essential knowledge and skills needed to understand financial information, foster effective collaboration with accountants, and actively contribute to strategic decision-making within their organizations.

On the other hand, a momentous series of symposiums on Various Republic Acts took place at the campus on April 26-May 17, 2023. This engaging symposium aimed to delve into the intricate details and implications of several significant Republic Acts. The event centered around five key legislations: RA No. 11313, commonly referred to as the "Safe Space Act or Anti-Bastos Law," RA No. 10175, otherwise known as the "Cybercrime Prevention Act," Republic Act No. 11036, which emphasizes the importance of Mental Health Awareness among students, RA No. 8049, also known as the Anti-Hazing Law; and RA 11479 also known as Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020, which highlighted awareness in countering and preventing violent extremism.

Organized by the Office of Student Affairs and Services (OSAS) in collaboration with Office of Guidance and Counselling, College of Agriculture Students' Society, and Local Government Unit partners, these offices joined forces to organize this enlightening event that cultivated a stimulating environment for





learning and participation. Through their collaborative efforts, they successfully created a thought-provoking and informative gathering, fostering a vibrant atmosphere where attendees could engage actively and expand their knowledge.

The presentations by Ms. Hania-Persia F. Usman, Rpm, and Atty. Hanna-Tunisia F. Usman offered invaluable insights into the three Republic Acts, fostering a deeper understanding of their significance, and encouraging meaningful dialogue among the attendees. Their expertise and dedication added immense value to the symposium, empowering participants with knowledge and awareness that they could apply to their daily lives and endeavors.

Moreover, three resource speakers namely LTC Michael Angelo Candelo, Shaykh Abdul Fatah Zacaria, Noel Legaspi aka Ka'Efren and. Throughout the symposium, various aspects of the Anti-Terrorism Act were examined. Presenters delved into the intentions behind the law, its scope, and the measures put in place to combat terrorism effectively while safeguarding human rights and civil liberties. Participants had the opportunity to engage in thought-provoking discussions, raising questions, and sharing their

viewpoints on the Act's provisions and their potential impact on society.

The Symposium provided an invaluable platform for in-depth discussions, shedding light on the essence and impact of these Republic Acts. Attendees had the opportunity to explore the provisions, objectives, and real-world applications of each legislation, gaining a comprehensive understanding of their significance in contemporary society.

Meanwhile, the Office of Student Affairs and Services (OSAS) in collaboration with the Center for Women Studies headed by Dr. Dianne U. Lozano successfully held a Seminar-Workshop on Syllabus Designing Cum Gender Sensitivity Training last April 27, 2023, at Regional Science and Research Center (RSRC). Attended by the college NSTP advisers of the three components: CWTS, LTS, and ROTC, the event highlighted in coming up with a more-gender sensitive approach to teaching NSTP and harmonizing NSTP programs and activities through a more responsive and relevant syllabus.

The first resource speaker, Dr. Alma Celesthia D. Aguja, DM, Director-Cultural Affairs Office, in her insightful presentation on Gender Sensitivity, captivated the

audience by shedding light on the significant role that gender plays within society. The second resource speaker, Dr. Dianne U. Lozano, Director-Center for Women Studies, implemented a thoughtful approach by grouping the participants based on their respective curricula. This innovative idea aimed to enhance the convenience and relevance of the syllabus for each group.

Furthermore, this curriculum-based grouping allowed for a more efficient allocation of resources and instructional materials, as they could be tailored to meet the specific needs and interests of each group. It also facilitated better communication and collaboration among participants, as they could exchange insights and experiences that were directly relevant to their respective curricula.

The Office of Student Affairs and Services successfully organized a series of activities that showcased their commitment to student welfare and empowerment. The Office of Student Affairs continues to positively impact the university community, exemplifying the true spirit of being an MSUan.





## MSU –GENSAN GEARING UP TO A GENDER –RESPONSIVE UNIVERSITY

Imee Pearl B. Lariosa, 3rd Year-BAELS

United fronts of Mindanao State University – General Santos City, namely, Gender and Development Focal Point System (GADFPS), Center for Women's Studies (CWS), Gender and Development Focal Point System (GADFPS) Student Ambassadors, Supreme Student Council (SSC), EMPRESS MSU, Physical Education Student Organization (PESO), Human Rights Society (HURISO), University Peace Champion, Pinta Okir Visual Art Guild, and Baktas-MSU, worked hand in hand to win the quest for a gender-inclusive and expansive university.

Years have gone by but the oppression and discrimination on gender still lingers. To put an end to this, the university put up an initiative to create joint forces that would serve as frontliners in combatting this stigma, hence, the Gender and Development Focal Point System and the Center for Women's Studies. The goal of these organizations is to establish a gender-responsive university whose constituents inculcate and apply the mandates of moral laws. To achieve this, GADFPS and CWS partnered up with different organizations from the university to create a space where various activities are conducted and offered to the students and the staff to introduce to them the goal of the university to be gender-responsive and the ways to attain this.

March 2023 opened up many avenues to celebrate

National Women's Month centered on the theme "WE for gender equality and inclusive society.". After a long preparation, GAD marches through March starting with the launching of the event on March 08, 2023, with the highlight activities: Cycling Event: "Padyak tayo para sa magandang buhay" and the MOA Signing (SOX Messaging Hub). Various activities were conducted like the Dugong MSUan Blood Olympics: A Blood-Letting Activity, NSTP-CWTS Clean-Up Drive Activity, EQUIP2023: Educators of the Generation Equipping for Practice, GAD-Weekly Photo Competition, GAD and Human Rights Conference, Serbisyo para kay Juana, GAD Mainstreaming in the Academe, Pananaw sa Kalinaw, Kalinaw sa Pananaw. The celebration was concluded with the National Women's Month Culmination Program.

Every movement towards progress will not come to life without the participation of everyone concerned and involved. There is a dire need for everyone's involvement to attain the goals of GADFPS and CWS. So, representatives from different colleges and other constituents were asked to participate in the activities. Their involvement was not only so they could learn and get a thing or two from the activities but also so they can share their two cents on the activities for a more fruitful discourse. The representatives were also asked to join an interactive Gender Sensitivity Symposium where

they were able to voice out their thoughts while guided by experts on the matter of gender issues. The representatives are then responsible for further dissemination.

One by one, each activity served its purpose. Conducting these kinds of activities is vital not only to celebrate gender inclusivity but also to acknowledge and accept, not only tolerate, the gender spectrum. It gave light to the gender issues that are present in society and it showcased how the students and the staff respond to these stigmas while incorporating creativity and talent in doing so. Moreover, the activities also benefitted the proponents in a way that they were able to somehow fulfil their goal as agents of change.

Winning a battle that we have been fighting for for so long is not a one-night job. It takes immeasurable efforts and dedication to which to owe to the people who took the leap. The initiatives of GADFPS, CWS, and other partner organizations are the fuel to achieve a gender-inclusive and expansive university. But these efforts will be put to waste if we will not do our part. Combatting gender-related stigma may be a rough feat and will take a while to win, but as a learner-centered university MSUans are not only intellectuals but are also gender-responsive. Hand-in-hand, we will have a grasp of the victory of gender inclusivity.





## MSU – GENSAN ORIENTS MEDICAL STUDENTS ENVISIONING THEM AS DOCTORS FOR PEACE

|Noel S. Sug-ang



In its aim to produce Doctors for Peace, Mindanao State University – General Santos City College of Medicine, with the support of the Institute for Peace and Development in Mindanao (IPDM), oriented its medical students on the importance of peace education and the culture of peace last October 21 at the AVR–Graduate School.

The event aimed to explain the mandate of Mindanao State University on promoting peace; discuss the nature and significance of peace, peace education, and culture of peace in the local, national, and global context; and identify the prospects for integrating peace lens in the delivery of medical services.

Through its system's BOR Resolution No. 356, s. 2017, Mindanao State University, a national peace university, actively responded to the urgent need to foster peace and unity in a multicultural Mindanao. Thus, the university has mandated the inclusion of a three-unit Fundamentals of Peace Education (FPE 101) course in all undergraduate programs.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Edwin C. Alconcel, College Dean, highlighted the significance of incorporating a peace lens and combating violent extremism in the curriculum. "I am thankful for this mandate because our students will fully grasp and apply PVE and peacebuilding concepts and principles when providing medical care in non-conflict and conflict zones," Dean Alconcel remarked.

He continued, "Peace education is an essential transformative process in our curriculum as one of our goals is to promote peace and achieve development. We want

not just to become expert doctors but also to be compassionate doctors for us to be called Doctors for Peace."

More on the context of peace, Dr. Mario J. Aguja, Faculty Regent of the MSU System, discussed MSU as a Peace University. He started his talk by acknowledging the diversity of medical students in the College of Medicine. While it is true that peace is an important discourse to maintain harmony in Mindanao, Regent Aguja argued that it is equally important to talk about our history. He said, "We are doing Peace education to develop a culture of peace which goes and respect for life and dignity, equal rights, social injustice, international solidarity, and responsibility."

"To have a broader sense of peace, we like to build a just and humane society. Because for us, peace is not just the absence of war, but also the presence of social justice," Regent Aguja added. In addition to his lecture, he challenged the faculty members and students to create a just and humane society that nurtures active discussion on peace.

After his illuminating discussion, Regent Aguja, on behalf of JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA, Acting Chancellor, sent a message of gratitude to the faculty members of the College of Medicine.

Dr. Jovar G. Pantao, Director of IPDM, led a meaningful activity to help the students understand peace and the culture of peace. The aim was to think of a word or phrase that may be linked with peace. The idea was to establish that peace is a comprehensive concept. "Our challenge is how to achieve positive peace. Because

positive peace is the absence of structural violence, socio-cultural violence, and even ecological violence," Dr. Pantao said.

In the context of the prospects of peace promotion in the medical field from an Islamic perspective, Dr. Sherjan Kalim, a Clinical and Anatomical Pathologist, shared his significant experience about the stereotyping or prejudice in the Islam community. In this talk, he set an example of respecting each other's culture in cultivating Peace. "All medical health practitioners should know and understand the culture and behavior of a community, especially in Mindanao, towards health and healing," Dr. Kalim emphasized.

Dr. Kalim concluded, "We are all equal regardless of religion, tribe, or political affiliation."

It is noteworthy that each speaker has meaningfully contributed to the discussion of peace in their various contexts. To produce future health professionals who will be the engines of peace, everyone must understand the overarching purpose that unites our efforts.

Lastly, Dr. Analyza Galia-Gabuay, Associate Dean, expressed her sincere thanks to the IPDM for conducting this significant event to help the students fully understand and appreciate the value of life, human dignity, and respect for religious and cultural diversity.

A series of knowledge-sharing discussions where the speakers addressed all the questions raised by some medical students concluded the event.

## SENIORS' CLUB READIES GRADUATING STUDS FOR CAREER OPPORTUNITIES THRU JOB COACHING

|Rhoda May Ebad, 4th Year-BSEd English

With the highly competitive job market, the Seniors' Club 2023, in collaboration with the KCC Mall of GenSan, makes sure that this year's graduating students will be at par or even beyond the demands of the career opportunities, through a job coaching activity held at KCC Convention Center, May 10.

Over 500 seniors attended the said event aimed at enhancing their employability skills and equipping them with the necessary skills to excel in job interviews and create impressive resumes.

The job coaching activity was graced by KCC Talent Acquisition Manager Princess Narvasa, who emphasized that while intellect and skills are essential in securing a job, applicants should also possess the "right attitude."

"Answer with humility in answering

job interview questions... and behave and act as expected," she advised the pre-service teachers.

Meanwhile, the Seniors' Club president, Brian Jay Casas, hopes that such an event equips the graduating seniors with the "tools to navigate the professional world and embrace the challenges that lie ahead."

"The benefits of a successful job coaching activity extend far beyond securing employment opportunities. By providing personalized guidance, honing essential skills, and fostering self-belief, may we have empowered our graduating seniors to pursue their dreams with confidently and resiliently," Casas remarked.

The Seniors' Club is also set to hold the Seniors' Week in late June, which includes a Job Fair and the Senior's Night.







MSU-GenSan employees attend the first of a series of seminars on technical driving sponsored by TESDA.

## MSU-GENSAN, ASSSA, TESDA COLLAB FOR UPSKILLING OF EMPLOYEES

| Norman Ralph B. Isla, MA

The Administrative Staff and Support Services Association together with the Office of the Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA, and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority initiated a series of upskilling seminar-workshops and simulation activities for the employees of the university.

On March 24-26, 2023, the Technical Driving Course was given to 110 personnel-beneficiaries wherein they had a 24-hour theoretical driving course highlighting several laws pertaining to driving privileges. Ms. Joylen C. Abalon, OIC Provincial Director, and Mr. Jerson Franco, TESDA School Administrator opened the program and emphasized the importance of the rare opportunity given to the participants.

After the 3-day seminar-workshop, the participants were divided into two batches that will undergo the practical driving course. Every weekend of March-May, the said faculty members and staff experienced firsthand how to drive and learned about road safety measures. Aside from the opportunity to be assessed and to receive a national certificate, all participants who successfully completed the 3-day theoretical driving course received a Certificate of Completion which can be used in application for the student permit to drive. Mr. Jemar Bernardio, Mr. Chris Anthony Magan, and Mr. Carlo Jay Idul of TESDA served as Driving Training.

Aside from driving, another program is on Security Service Course wherein all 64 security personnel of the university were able to receive up-to-date knowledge on security service. The said program aims to reorient and update the university police force of basic courtesy, discipline and even be updated on how to deal with theft, robbery and other criminal acts. Through the support of the South Cotabato Training Center, Inc. and TESDA, the two-day seminar-workshop was held successfully. Major Fidencio Sales Jr. and Mr. Edgar Mahusay led the training on security service.

According to Ms. Rhea M. Ayop, ASSSA President, "we thank the support of our Acting Chancellor Aragasi, the ASSSA officers, and the organization, TESDA, and SCTC. I personally see and appreciate these TESDA courses because they up-skilled and empowered us, especially the staff and the women to offer more for the university and to value their job more. If someone can multi-task or be versatile like she can drive, she can do plumbing or carpentry, she will be confident and proud of what she can contribute to her workplace." As to the organizers, the technical driving course and security service course were just two of the upcoming programs prepared by this productive collaboration for the personnel of the university.

## OVCAA SPEARHEADS POLICY REVIEW AND WORKSHOP

| Mark Ivan Caro

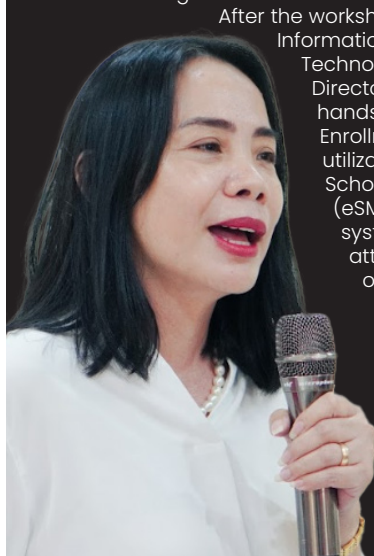
Mindanao State University-General Santos through the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (OVCAA), spearheaded the Academic Policy Review and Workshop on Harmonizing and Streamlining of Subjects Offering on February 1, 2023, held at the Regional Science Research Center. The workshop aims to discuss the University's academic policies, rules, and regulations with the directors, faculty, college deans, and department chairpersons.

Vice Chancellor Dr. Mishell Lawas, in her welcome remarks, urged the attendees to participate and understand the very importance of this event in ensuring quality-driven services and assessing specific student cases as a basis to strengthen and recalibrate the policies of the university. Dr. Lawas also reiterated the rights of the students, and the responsibilities of the deans, directors, and department chairs.

Prof. Tera R. Castillo, Campus Registrar, followed with a discussion on registration rules. She also tackled, academic load, probation, dismissal, application for advanced credit, and guidelines in admitting transfer students in preparation for the incoming enrolment.

After the workshop on Enrolment Policies, Information and Communications Technology Office (ICTO) Director Jose T. Trillo II gave a hands-on debriefing on the Enrollment Flow as well as the utilization of the Electronic Schools Management System (eSMS) and updates on the system. He restated to the attendees the importance of the (eSMS) as the legitimate source in checking student grades needed for enrolment.

The event ended with an agreement on the updated schedule of enrollment which will start on the 13th of February, 2022.



Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Mishell D. Lawas

## UNIVERSITY SUCCESSFULLY ADMINISTERS SASE 2023

| Monlouie M. Sorzano, MA

Mindanao State University - General Santos successfully hurdled the administration of the System Admission and Scholarship Examination (SASE) last January 15. Under the supervision of its Admissions Office, the examination was simultaneously administered to its testing centers to determine the admission and scholarship of incoming 1st-year students to the MSU System.

In its main testing center at MSU-GenSan Fatima Campus, there were 6149 hopeful examinees from schools within and neighboring General Santos City. There were a total of three batches for the administration of the exam which started as early as 8:00 AM and ended at around 4:00 PM.

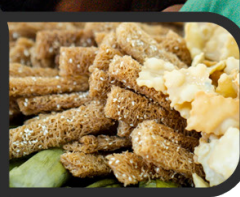
The staff of the Admissions Office headed by Prof. Jerry J. Dela Cruz, examiners, proctors, and medical and security personnel were all stationed in their designated areas to assure smooth and efficient conduct of SASE 2023. The preparation for the exam started last year which was prompted by the opening of online applications last November 15, 2022. In its mission to make SASE accessible to everyone, MSU-GenSan took charge of 13 different test centers. MSU-General Santos in Fatima, General Santos City served as the main testing center.





# A CALL FOR SOLIDARITY AND RELIGION: UNIVERSITY CONSTITUENTS COMMUNE IN GRAND IFTAR

| Najifah P. Macaraya, JD



Sheikh Eisa Javier delivered a lecture during the MSU-GenSan Grand Iftar 2023, highlighting the importance of striving for excellence in relation to Allah (s.w.t.), constantly working towards self-improvement, improving communities, and building good relationships even with those of different faiths. The event, with a theme, "A Call for Solidarity and Religion," was held on April 17, 2023, at the Regional Science Research Center and was attended by deans of colleges, heads of different offices, and staff of the university. The grand Iftar was sponsored and organized by the Office of the Chancellor, The Halal Research and Training Center, and the TWG on the creation of the Institute of Islamic, Arabic, and Asian Studies, headed by Dr. Abdu Lantong, and CETD Director Esmadah Andang-Alaiden.

The event began with a recitation of the Quran by Johair M. Daud, followed by welcoming remarks from the Director of the Halal Research and Training Center, Dr. Abdul M. Lantong, Acting Chancellor

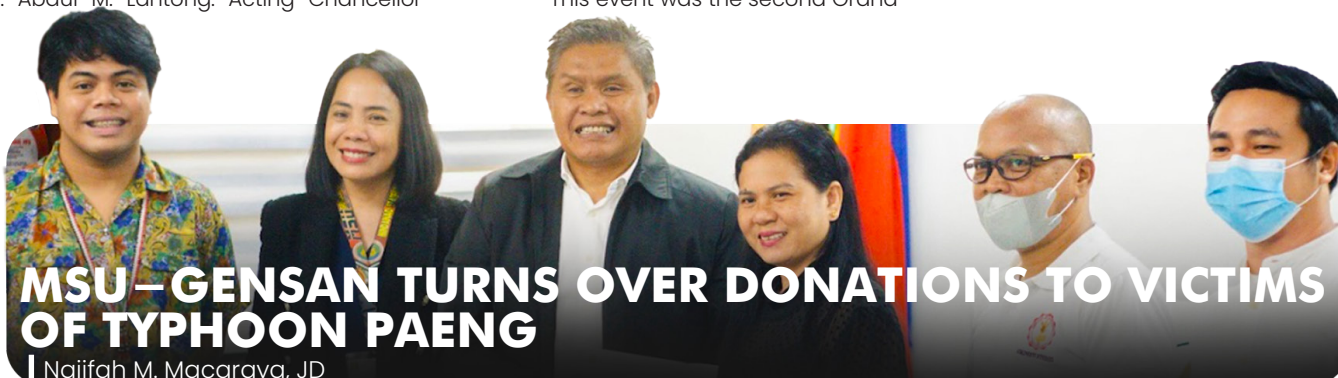
Usman Aragasi delivered an inspirational message, emphasizing the wisdom of Ramadan and the importance of solidarity through understanding and respecting one's religious practices and faith, as a way to attain the long-term vision of the university to become a national peace university.

To achieve the event's theme of a call for solidarity and religion, an open forum was provided for participants to ask questions, especially non-Muslims, about Islam and its practices. This became an avenue for the university constituents to express their thoughts and feelings about Islam and helped to address misconceptions about Islam. The event also showcased one of the best gestures of expressing thanksgiving for experiencing and hurdling the challenges of Ramadhan, the giving "Hadiya" (a gift). It was done with a twist: participants need to answer questions about Ramadhan, its virtues and other activities done during the holy month.

This event was the second Grand

Iftar held on the campus, following the Kandilimudan, a combination of Grand Iftar and Islamic Symposium organized by the MUSA (Muslim Students' Association) in collaboration with the Islamic Studies Students' Association and the Moro Civic Students' Organization. The third event was the Grand Iftar for all FPE students, where 500 students joined the Iftar, and at least 50 accepted the fasting challenge. This program adapted the "Friends Beyond Faith" project. The last Grand Iftar was held at the Gymnasium with the theme "Strengthening Relationship with Allah." MUSA also organized this Grand Iftar in collaboration with its partners.

With the diverse culture in MSU-GenSan, events such as ways of engaging students and employees to celebrate and respect each other's culture and traditions, interfaith dialogue, and to give a deeper understanding of one's faith and beliefs.



## MSU – GENSAN TURNS OVER DONATIONS TO VICTIMS OF TYPHOON PAENG

| Najifah M. Macaraya, JD

Mindanao State University – General Santos, through its Kadtatabangay: Campus-wide Donation Drive turned over relief goods to Typhoon Paeng victims on November 9, 2022, at the Institute of Peace and Development in Mindanao (IPDM) Office.

A team from MSU-Maguindanao received the donations after a short ceremony. The program was attended by Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Mishell D. Lawas, Campus Secretary Prof. Norman Ralph B. Isla, Office of International Affairs Director Prof. Beverly T. Garcia, and IPDM's Peace Action Coordinator Prof. Najifah P. Macaraya.

The MSU-Maguindanao team was also personally received by Acting Chancellor, JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA, and handed in monetary help collected through various fundraising efforts and pledges from the administration, faculty and staff of the University. The University Peace Champions' Kadtatabangay: Campus-wide Donation Drive for the victims of Typhoon Paeng was able to collect monetary donations, clothes, rice, slippers, bottled water, food items, hygiene kits, toiletries, sleeping mats, and more in partnership with the following organizations:

- Muslim Students' Association (MUSA)
- Muslim Student Civic Organization
- Human Rights Society
- Ladies Dormitory Main
- Sociology Student Society
- Madrasatul Arabiya Al-Islamiya
- Lun Padiu Manisan Moro Women Association
- College of Social Sciences and Humanities Students' Organization
- Sigma Lambda Phi – Sigma Rho Chapter
- Antonino G. Busano Sr. High School Supreme Student Government
- Tau Delta Phi- Beta NU Chapter
- Islamic Studies Students Association- Agricultural Business Management Society (ABMS)
- BAGWIS
- Ground Zero Ministry
- College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (OMANSS)
- SSG-BNSF
- JITS
- Physical Education Students' Organization (PESO)
- Natural Sciences Student Association (NASSA)
- Concerned Muslim Individuals
- Crop Science Students Society
- Planning Evaluation Management Office (PEMO)
- Science and Technology Training Center
- College of Agriculture
- Seventh Day Adventist Society
- AFS – IPP GenSan
- JIECEP
- Groundzero
- Mel's Catering
- NDJ Batch '77
- Business Administration and Accountancy Student's Council

The University wishes to extend gratitude to all its active partners and generous donors for being a beacon of light in other people's darkness. May Allah/Almighty God bless you all.



# MSU–GENSAN HOLDS ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR FRESHMEN AND TRANSFEREES

| Eunece V. Naive

Mindanao State University – General Santos welcomed the freshmen and transferees for the first semester of A.Y. 2022–2023 by holding an Orientation Program on October 12, 2022, at the University Gymnasium. The event aims to create students' familiarity with the institution's regulations and academic standards.

In her opening remarks, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Mishell D. Lawas welcomed the first-year and transferee students. As we begin the academic year 2022–2023, she remarked that it is a must that students should be informed, updated, and enlightened about our current regulations and guidelines in the University.

"And as we begin with another academic year, [...] I encourage you to do your best in your respective academic tasks and requirements. It is through diligence more than intelligence that you will be able to accomplish things and achieve your goals in life. We look forward to your achievement and success as graduates of MSU–GenSan and worthy Iskolar ng Bayan," Dr. Lawas added.

Thereafter, Prof. Norman Ralph B. Isla, the Campus Secretary introduced the Officials and Heads of Offices of the University.

In his message, Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA challenged the students to hone their minds and skills as they carry the name of the university with great pride and responsibility. "Many are called but few are chosen," he said. He reminded the students of returning the favor by excelling in academics and completing their degrees on time because many have

tried but only a few were given the opportunity to be accepted to the university. He also assured that the University will continue to provide equal opportunities to students for quality education.

During the presentation of the student support services, the Registrar's Office headed by Prof. Tersa R. Castillo explained to the students the academic policies and guidelines, registration rules and procedures, academic load, grading systems, and academic performance and scholarship.

In charge of the delivery of quality health services, the Medical Services Department headed by the University Physician Dr. Usmama F. Usman-Naga introduced the medical services of the university such as medical consultation, health awareness programs, and issuance of medical certification.

Moreover, Ms. Betty M. Celda, the University Librarian tackled library services such as using the library and study spaces and finding and accessing books, journals, and electronic resources. This was followed by the presentation of Ms. Hania Persia F. Usman, the Guidance Counselor. She stressed that the Office of Guidance and Counseling helps bring into focus the

personal, social, psychological, social, and career development of the students.

On the other hand, different offices also presented and introduced their services, policies, and guidelines: Admissions Office led by Prof. Jerry J. Dela Cruz, Dormitory Services led by Ms. Cheryl D. Dindang, Sports Development Office led by Ms. Sammielyn S. Lavente, Office of the Student Affairs and Services led by Prof. Rhumer S. Lañojan, and Civil Security Office led by Mr. Ameladin M. Maningcara.

Finally, Office of the Student Affairs and Services Director Prof. Rhumer S. Lañojan concluded the program with his closing remarks. The orientation program was organized by the Office of Guidance and Counseling in collaboration with the Office of Students Affairs and Services.



## HEALTHY HORIZONS: MSU–MSD'S TRIUMPH IN 'CHIKITING LIGTAS 2023' PAVES WAY TO RESILIENT GENERATIONS

| Reihann Naga Edres, RN

In a resplendent display of unity and commitment, Mindanao State University – Medical Services Department has emerged as a beacon of health and well-being in the wake of the monumental "Chikiting Ligtas 2023: Join the Big Catch Up, Magpabakuna para sa Healthy Pilipinas!" campaign. This ambitious nationwide initiative, orchestrated by the Department of Health (DOH) in collaboration with esteemed partners United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organization (WHO), aimed to fortify our future generations against the perils of measles, rubella, and polio.

With unwavering determination and meticulous planning, the campaign found its home within the hallowed halls of the MSU Infirmary. Mirroring the objectives of the DOH's national campaign, "Chikiting Ligtas – MROPVIA" (Measles, Rubella, and Oral Polio Vaccine Supplemental Immunization Activity), this endeavor was an eloquent testament to our collective dedication to preserving the pinnacle of health and vitality within our community.

Through a remarkable partnership with RHU–Fatima, we were able to mobilize a comprehensive vaccination program that reached far and wide, ensuring that no child on the campus was left vulnerable to these preventable diseases. Our devoted team of nurses and administrative staff diligently prepared to serve the community by opening the doors of our vaccination center from 8 AM to 3 PM. Prior to this, the children of employees were encouraged to pre-

enlist their names, ensuring they could avail themselves of the necessary vaccines. The impact of our efforts was profound and far-reaching. Over the course of the campaign, we successfully vaccinated children inside the campus, instilling in them a shield of protection that will safeguard their health for years to come. We witnessed firsthand the power of unity and collaboration as we stood shoulder-to-shoulder with our partners, DOH, UNICEF, and WHO, in pursuit of a common goal – a healthy Philippines.

Moving forward, let us continue to champion the cause of immunization, spreading awareness, and ensuring that every child receives the protection they deserve. As the great Nelson Mandela once said, "Health cannot be a question of income; it is a fundamental human right." Together, we can build a healthier and brighter future for the children of our nation.

In the words of our medical director, Dr. Usmama Fatima Usman-Naga, "The triumph of Chikiting Ligtas 2023 within our campus is truly a significant milestone on the path towards a healthier and more resilient General Santos City. It has laid a solid foundation for our continued progress in safeguarding and nurturing the well-being of future generations. Together, let us build upon this momentum and come together in our collective efforts to

protect and nurture the health of our beloved nation."



Dr. Usmama Fatima Lily Usman-Naga, the Medical Services Director, on-duty during the 'Chikiting Ligtas 2023: Join the Big Catch Up, Magpabakuna para sa Healthy Pilipinas.'



# SMILE SQUAD CHRONICLES: MEET THE DYNAMIC DUO OF DENTAL DELIGHT AT MSU–MSD!

Reihann Naga Edres, RN

Picture this: gleaming smiles, sparkling instruments, and a touch of dental magic. It's a new chapter in oral care at Mindanao State University - General Santos City (MSU GSC) as we introduce the dynamic duo of dentistry, the masters of molars, and the champions of chompers! Get ready to meet the two newest additions to the MSU GSC - MSD family: Dr. Keziah Galay, DMD and Dr. Rodney Acharon, DMD - the talented tag team destined to bring an extra dose of dental delight to our campus.

With their energetic personalities and passion for pearly whites, Dr. Keziah and Dr. Rodney are on a mission to make every dental visit a delightful adventure. Gone are the days of dental dread and anxiety, as this dynamic duo brings a fresh and fun approach to oral care. These two doctors are also highly skilled professionals, armed with the latest techniques and advancements in dental science. Their expertise covers a wide range of dental services, from routine check-ups and tooth extractions to dazzling smile makeovers. With their combined experience and commitment to excellence, they ensure that every patient receives top-notch care their grin and leaves a room - and you would be amazed by the small value



DR. KEZIAH GALAY, DMD

you pay for the amount of these services.

When it comes to finding the perfect balance between work and life, there's something magical about Mindanao State University (MSU) that captivated our dynamic dental duo. Despite the modest compensation as university dental retainers, they discovered that serving MSU not only fulfilled their professional aspirations but also allowed them to make a meaningful impact within the community, especially at the grassroots level.

For Doc KZ, stepping into the role of a public dentist in a governmental institution felt like a natural calling. Growing up, she witnessed her mother dedicating herself to the dental needs of the people in the Municipality of Malungon. Inspired by her mother's dedication, Doc KZ even provided dental equipment from her private clinic to the MSU infirmary, ensuring that patients received optimal care. Dr. Rodney shared a similar sentiment, stating, "My mother, a brilliant dentist, inspired me. Through her, I witnessed the immense help a dentist can provide to the community. When the opportunity to join MSU arose through a family friend's recommendation, I knew it was the perfect chance to improve oral health within our university community and offer deserving patients the highest level of care."

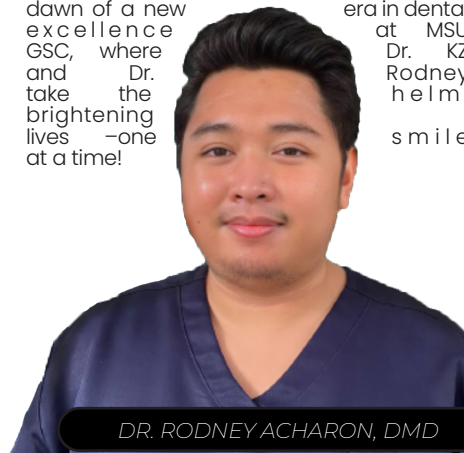
Both dentists aspire to inspire future generations of dental professionals and eagerly anticipate the opportunity to impart their knowledge and techniques to budding dentists, equipping them for success in their future endeavors. To our dentists, dental missions and oral health education hold immense importance. They firmly believe that awareness and increasing access to dental care can positively impact everyone.

In our conversation, Doc KZ emphasized the significance of brushing twice daily, highlighting how this simple practice saves money and boosts confidence. Preventing the need for

extensive dental procedures in the future can truly make a difference in one's overall well-being.

Dr. Rodney shared his motivation, saying, "The smiles and gratitude of my patients fuel my determination to work harder and provide excellent dental care. Witnessing my patients regain their smiles is the most rewarding aspect of my profession." He concluded our discussion by sharing a quote from Anthony J. D'Angelo: "Smile. it is the key that fits the lock of everybody's heart."

Beyond their professional prowess, these dental superheroes are also known for their incredible rapport with patients of all ages. Whether it's calming the fears of a timid toddler or putting a smile on the face of a stressed-out student, they both have an uncanny ability to connect with people on a personal level. With their genuine warmth and friendly demeanor, they effortlessly cultivate an atmosphere of trust and comfort, transforming each visit to the dentist into a delightful reunion with dear old friends. Brace yourself for the dawn of a new era in dental excellence at MSU GSC, where Dr. KZ and Dr. Rodney take the brightening lives - one smile at a time!



DR. RODNEY ACHARON, DMD

## PAWSITIVELY SAFE: KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES CLAWSOME!

Reihann Naga Edres, RN

The peril posed by rabies demands an earnest response, and the MSU GSC - Medical Services Department has embraced a proactive approach to raise awareness about this preventable infection. The department organized an event on April 12th that was both enlightening and captivating, featuring distinguished speakers who imparted valuable insights into rabies prevention, pathogenesis, and control.

The event, titled "PAWSitively Safe: Keeping Our Communities CLAWsome!" was held at the RSRC and drew in a diverse audience of concerned citizens, pet owners, and health professionals. The highlight of the event was the presentation by Dr. Paul

Christian Ramos, RN, the City Infectious Disease Medical Coordinator of General Santos City. Dr. Ramos shared his extensive knowledge of rabies and its prevention, emphasizing the importance of vaccination, proper animal care, and community awareness.

The University Veterinarian, Dr. Alexis Miole, also provided valuable information on how to keep pets healthy and happy. He underscored the role of pet owners in preventing the spread of diseases like rabies through regular check-ups and proper care.

The Housing Management Office's participation in the event was significant, as it emphasized the importance of raising

awareness about diseases that can be transmitted between pets and humans. The Director of Housing Management, JD Mahid Macalawi, led a group of participants, highlighting the role of MSU General Santos in promoting public health and safety.

As we look back at the success of "PAWSitively Safe: Keeping Our Communities CLAWsome!", we are reminded of the immense value of community involvement and awareness. The department's seemingly small step in educating the community about simple health prevention has left a profound impact, making it a monumental feat to impart knowledge and share valuable information.



Attendees of the seminar on rabies prevention, pathogenesis, and control hosted by the Medical Services Department pose for photos.





(From left to right) Acting Chancellor, JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA, President of the MSU System, Atty. Basari D. Mapupuno, Faculty Regent; Dr. Mario J. Aguja and Faculty Federation Secretary, Dr. Heart Virtudazo-Ligaray during the 17th Faculty Biennial Congress

# MSU GENSAN HOSTS 17TH BIENNIAL CONGRESS OF THE MSU SYSTEM FACULTY UNION FEDERATION

| John Jay L. Morido, LPT

To strengthen and capacitate the unionism of the different campuses and to plan for the future of the faculty members in the system, the MSU, General Santos hosted the Mindanao State University System Faculty Federation 17th Biennial Congress at the School of Graduate Studies, MSU-Gen. Santos last November 3-4, 2022.

The event was participated by the 11 campuses, namely MSU-Marawi, MSU-IIT, MSU-Naawan, MSU-Maguindanao, MSU-TCTO, MSU-Sulu, MSU-

MSAT, MSU-Buug, MSU-SND, MSU-LNCAT, and MSU-Gen. Santos. The officers of various unions spearheaded their campuses for the whole duration of the activity.

In the opening program, the Federation Secretary, Dr. Corazon V. Ligaray, acknowledged the delegates, observers, and guests, followed by the Faculty Regent, Dr. Mario J. Aguja's opening remarks. Also, JD Usman D. Aragasi, Acting Chancellor of MSU-Gen. Santos gave his message of support as the host university.

Director Resurreccion P. Pueyo, Regional Director of the Civil Service Commission XII, duly represented by Atty. Hannah D. Examen was the resource speaker during the first day of the event, where she talked about the importance and benefits of unionism to the employees of private and public offices. A dialogue session was initiated after the session.

On the Day-2 of the congress, The MSU System President, Atty. Basari D. Mapupuno attended the event to show his support and plans for the faculty force of the system.

Also, he catered to various concerns from the august body and explained to enlighten the queries of everyone.

With the active participation of the good President, the Faculty members could lobby their queries and concerns on their tenure, promotion, and

development.

Moreover, the plenary was followed by a discussion with the President of the Malapatan Local Government Employees Association (MALGEA), Mr. Sherwin Mahilum, who discussed the Public Sector Labor Management Council (PSLMC): Mandates and Challenges. Furthermore, Regent Aguja lectured on the New Trends in Public Sector Unionism in the Philippines, which helped the federation cope with each campus's needs regarding unionism. While gearing towards good governance, he said "We hope to transform our unions into robust ones and train our union leaders to be future leaders of the academe. Developing the capacity of our union leaders and collectively engaging the MSU system on matters of interest remains our priority."

On the other hand, the election for the next set of the federation's officials took place during the event. Dr. Alhisan Jemsy of MSU-TCTO was elected President together with Atty. Edgar Alan Donasco, the Vice President, Prof. Allen Talikan as Secretary, Prof. Alibai Unsi as Treasurer, Prof. Manolito Parungao as Auditor and Prof. Warziv Bacarat as PIO. The president shall serve as the Faculty Regent representing the faculty force to the Board of Regents (BOR) of the MSU System.

The MSU System Faculty Federation remains to its obligation to put forward the needs and concerns of each faculty member so as to ensure everyone's rights and privileges are upheld. The campuses in the system, though proximally distant from one another, worked as one for the betterment of the whole institution for the sake of the MSUans.







## MSU–GENSAN LAUNCHES FPE101 MODULE, WELCOMES GUESTS FROM OPAPRU, KSU

| Monlouie M. Sorzano, MA

In an intimate gathering at the Laktanan Reflex Garden, MSU-GenSan, through its CHED-IDIG Peace Project and the Institute for Peace and Development in Mindanao (IPDM), officially launched the new Module for Fundamentals of Peace Education (FPE 101) embedded with Global Citizenship Education, December 1.

The University's administration attended the ceremonial launching of the module, CHED-IDIG Peace Project's study leaders and staff, FPE 101 instructors, and other important stakeholders. Also present to witness the momentous occasion were guests from the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU) and Kalinga State University (KSU).

In her opening message, Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension Dr. Edna P. Guevarra warmly congratulated all involved, especially the peace educators of the University, in the making of the module. She regarded the CHED-IDIG Peace Project as one of the "breakthroughs about peace" of the University. She remarked that the creation of the module is "one of the most valuable achievements that the University can be proud of being a National Peace University."

The rationale for the new FPE module was given by CHED-IDIG Peace Project's lead implementer and MSU Faculty Regent, Dr. Mario "Mayong" J. He first recognized the presence of the delegates from the OPAPRU, the KSU, and the university peace educators. He shared that the presence of both institutions in the University to witness the launching of the module speaks of the meeting of the interests of the "North" and "South" in advancing the peace agenda from both ends of the country. Dr. Aguja said that it's important for collaboration and partnership to persist by meeting in person and seeing eye-to-eye with

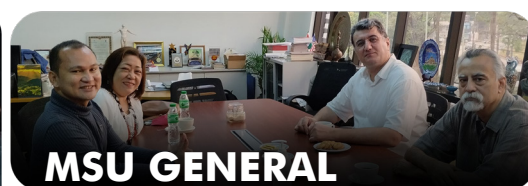
partners in peace. Additionally, he emphasized that launching the new FPE module is a "collective effort" and "labor of love" of the peace educators of the University who have devoted their time and expertise in writing the module. He proudly affirmed that the module is "reflective of the Tri-People interest" and designed to meet the unique needs of the FPE learners.

After Dr. Aguja's message, the FPE module was officially launched through the unveiling of the Tri-People-inspired cover page. Certificates of appreciation were then given to the module writers.

Thereafter, Prof. Marilou Alngag, Public Administration Chairperson of the Kalinga State University thanked the University for warmly welcoming their delegation. She expressed that the event is an opportunity of partnering and collaborating with MSU-GenSan. She hopes that whatever they learn from the exchanges with the University will be brought back to their institution and form part of their practices toward peace education.

In addition, Ms. Rowena Lopez, an official of the OPAPRU, gave her message of support to the University. She gave commendations to all involved in creating the FPE module and remarked that OPAPRU is always in support of the institutionalization of peace education and all the efforts of key players in advancing peace in the country.

CHED-IDIG study leaders also gave messages of gratitude in the person of Prof. Lolymer Reyes of the Sociology Department and Prof. Berlita Disca of the Mathematics Department. Peace educators from different colleges were in attendance to celebrate another milestone in the peace education efforts of the University.



## MSU GENERAL SANTOS CO-HOSTS INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON DECOLONIZING ASIAN KNOWLEDGE

Soraya M. Maunda

MSU General Santos together with UP Asian Center, UP Center for International Linkages, PMESA, Mariam College, New Era University, MSU Marawi, IR Dept and Far Eastern University just concluded the two day International Seminar on Decolonizing Asian Knowledge last February 21-22, 2023. MSU Gensan through the Office of International Affairs co-hosted this event held at UP Auditorium. This activity was attended by various institution, including delegation from other countries like Iran, Malaysia, Singapore, India and Indonesia.

The event delved on the literature and teaching in the humanities and social sciences that were influenced by western scholarship, partly due to colonial legacies. The dominance of western scholarship in our education carries over into our daily lives and the lenses that we used to understand and interact with the world around us. As a consequence, we failed to appreciate the value of indigenous knowledge.

This seminar revisited indigenous knowledge as an important component in area studies and scholars from Malaysia, Iran, and the Philippines presented their works on decolonial thoughts and Asian experiences. Together with Professor Farid Alatas and his delegation, the UP Asian Center, the Center for International Studies, MSU General Santos, PMESA and partner universities, successfully held this conversation on decolonial knowledge last February 21 and 22 2023. The seminar aimed to identify possible topics for joint research among our faculty and students.

Lectures delivered were as follows: (1) The Roots of Philippine Nationalism: Comparative Views from South East Asia presented by Dr. Ariel Lopez; (2) Haunting Heroism : Pasyong Rizal and the Millenarian Imaginary by Dr. Noel Christian A. Moratilla); (3) Emancipating the "captive mind" and the Production of Decolonial Knowledge by Dr. Esmaeil Zeiny; (4) The Poverty of the Middle east Studies in the Philippine Academic Literature by Dr. Henelito A. Sevilla.

Prof. Beverly T. Garcia, Director of MSU-GenSan's Office of International Affairs took part in the seminar by sharing her insights, intensively conversed on the experiences of the Filipino people under various colonial power, which was followed by the Q and A portion. The program closed with all the participants still conversing on the topics.



## CELEBRATING CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND YOUTH RESILIENCE: KALILANGAN NG BATANG HENERAL GATHERS TRI-PEOPLE YOUTH IN GENERAL SANTOS CITY

Jasmin P. Saricala & Norlailah M. Macasilang, LPT

As part of the Kalilangan Festival 2023 celebrations, a collaborative effort between Mindanao State University-General Santos (MSU-GenSan), the Youth Affairs and Development Office (YADO), Sangguniang Kabataan Federation-GenSan, City Mayor's Office-Integrated Cultural Communities Affairs Division-CMO-ICCAD, MSU-GenSan Sociology Department, Cronasia Foundation College, Inc., Department of Education GenSan Division, Hinabi GenSan, and Kalimudan Culture and Arts Center-GenSan resulted in the successful organization of the Kalilangan ng Batang Heneral: Gensan Tri-People Youth Convergence for Cultural Diversity and Community Resilience on February 26, 2023. This significant event took place at the KCC Convention Center.

The Kalilangan Festival in General Santos City is a celebration of the tri-people's rich cultural heritage, emphasizing the importance of nurturing respect for cultural diversity, particularly among the city's youth. By bringing together young individuals to honor the city's diverse cultures, the event served as a valuable platform for tri-people youth to discuss pertinent issues and concerns that impact their lives.

The convergence witnessed the attendance of Senior High School students from various public schools in Gensan, students from

Higher Education Institutions in Gensan, Fundamentals of Peace Education students from MSU-GenSan, Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) officials representing the 26 barangays of Gensan, and several other youth organizations in the city. Each school and organization sent an equal number of representatives from the IP, Moro, and Christian Settler communities.

Dr. Mishell D. Lawas, the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs of MSU-GenSan, warmly welcomed the participants. Mayor Lorelie Pacquiao graced the occasion and expressed her support and optimism for the city's youth and their promising future. Distinguished panelists, including Oscar G. Casaysay, Executive Director at the National Commission for Culture and the Arts; Fr. Angelo Buenavidez, Vicar-General of the Diocese of Marbel; Ms. Jocelyn L. Kanda, Head of the CMO GenSan-Integrated Cultural Communities Affairs Division (ICCAD); Hon. John Salvador D. Demdam, President/ City Councilor of the Sangguniang Kabataan Federation-GenSan; Mr. Johnrex B. Galdo, Executive Assistant for Youth Affairs-GenSan; and Prof. Norman Ralph Isla, Campus Secretary of MSU-GenSan, engaged in discussions on various youth-related topics.

Taking charge of the workshop as the overall facilitator was Mr. Al-Nezzar B. Ali, a Creative Specialist and Project Designer. His expertise and guidance led to the active participation of hundreds of attendees. While the overall event was skillfully overseen by Dr. Mario J. Aguja, the OIC-Director of the Indigenous Peoples and Development Management (IPDM).

Adding color and vibrancy to the workshop were performances by the MSU-GenSan Kabapagariya Ensemble (KE) and MSU-Sulu Performing Artists, under the direction of Prof. Romeo Narvaez, the Artistic Director/Sub-commission National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA). The workshops themselves were facilitated by members of the MSU-GenSan Fundamentals of Peace Education 101 and Department of Sociology Faculty, along with teachers from the Department of Education (DepEd) and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in GenSan, as well as KE Alumni.

The event saw the active participation of approximately 500 attendees, making it a resounding success in promoting cultural diversity, community resilience, and meaningful engagement among the tri-people youth of Gensan.







## MSU – GENSAN CELEBRATES 49TH FOUNDATION ANNIVERSARY, PAYS TRIBUTE FOR WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

| Eunece V. Naive

It was a celebration of institutional resolve and ingenuity for Mindanao State University – General Santos as it welcomed this year's 49th Foundation Anniversary. The celebration, dubbed "KUWARENTA'Y NUEVE NA TAYO" was attended by the University Officials, faculty members, staff, students, alumni, and other stakeholders wearing their United Nations-inspired costumes on October 10, 2022, at the University Gymnasium.

The Office of the Chancellor, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development, Cultural Affairs Office, Office of Student Affairs and Services, and Physical Plant Development spearheaded the celebration and prepared various activities for the University community.

The celebration kicked off with the monthly held Flag Raising Ceremony. It started with an invocation followed by the singing of the National Anthem and Gensan Hymn and unison of the Panunumpa ng Lingkod Bayan. Birthday celebrants for October were also recognized as they received tokens from the University, Acting Chancellor Aragasi being one of them. An intermission number from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development wrapped up the first part of the program.

Commemorating the legacy that started the University, the second part was tagged as Mabuhay: Tribute to the 49th Foundation Anniversary of MSU-GenSan. One of the highlights of this segment was the performance of Senior High School students dedicated to the 49th birth celebration of MSU-GenSan entitled "49: Isang Sabayang Pagbibigay-pugay kay MSU-GenSan." Thereafter, heads of offices, faculty members, and staff joined various fun games such as "49 Memories Down the Lane" and "Sama-sama sa Tama!"

In his message, Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Argasi, MPA stressed that commemorating the foundation anniversary

is very significant since it is a chance to remind the students about the University's humble beginnings. He also shared his commitment to providing better services to the students and the MSU-GenSan community.

"One of the mantras of the university is we will strengthen our collaboration with industries in both domestic and international, and rest assured that this is part of the roadmap of the university. And of course, to the students, being an important sector of the university, rest assured that we will have a very strong consultation [and] collaboration...and we will not stop in supporting our students as we are also supporting our faculty members and staff," said Acting Chancellor Aragasi.

Moreover, in line with the celebration of World Teachers' Day, students from various colleges expressed their appreciation and gratitude by giving tokens and serenading the faculty members. In a response message, MSU Faculty Regent Dr. Mario J. Aguja paid tribute to the faculty force of the University. He emphasized that as a teacher, one must guide students to become critical, creative and contributive to the benefit of society. He expressed a challenge to the faculty members as he ended his speech saying, "The challenge...is to continue with our passion in building the best of our students."

The event proceeded with a cultural showdown of MSU-GenSan's RDC Got Talent Showcase, which was recognized as the overall first-runner-up of the said event and the performance of the Kabpapagariya Ensemble which was featured on the Rawaten Cultural Gala during the 60th Founding Anniversary of MSU. Thereafter, Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development, Prof. Sheila J. Loable, recognized all the offices and committee members who worked hard for the success of the day's celebrations. Capping off the event, the University constituents joyously participated in a community sing and dance.



# INTRAMURALS 2022 GATHERS CAMPUS COMMUNITY IN SOLIDARITY

| Eunece V. Naive

Promoting solidarity and conquering new heights in the new normal, Mindanao State University – General Santos launched the Intramurals 2022 anchored with the theme, “MSU-GSC Now: Champion for Peace, Builder of the future.” Cheers of victory and excitement filled the MSU Open Field as MSUans gathered to witness the opening ceremony.

On the first day, November 20, the event opened with the parade of students and athletes from different colleges wearing and flaunting their college colors and banners. The 11 competing colleges are the College of Agriculture, College of Business Administration and Accountancy, College of Education, College of Engineering, College of Fisheries, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, College of Social Sciences and Humanities, School of Graduates Studies, College of Law Extension, Senior High School, and College of Medicine.

Winners of the Parade Competition are the following:

Champion – Senior High School

1st Runner up – College of Fisheries

2nd Runner up – Vanguard

Most Organized – College of Agriculture

Most Creative – Senior High School

Most Participative – College of Fisheries

Most Energetic – Senior High School

In his opening remarks, Hon. John Michael Macaya, the SSC President, remarked, “The best things in life are not just trophies of victory sometimes [they] can be found in the process or should I say in the journey that matters the most.”

He emphasized that enjoyment, sportsmanship, camaraderie, and excellence in every aspect, are enough manifestations of the essence of Intramurals. “As we engage in the following activities and other events, it is not just about college versus college competing. Still, I hope that these activities will provide avenues to foster harmonious relationships for us to become ‘One MSU-GenSan.’”

Moreover, the Oath of Amateurism led by Rose Ann Garay was then followed by the College Shirts Showdown showcased by the college deans and students. Thereafter, the crowd was all hyped as the deans and college representatives raised their respective college banners.

Atty. Basari D. Mapupuno, the MSU System President expressed his delight and gratitude to all the MSU constituents, “The hauling of the opening ceremony of the week-long activities of the MSU-GenSan campus is a commendable endeavor that revitalizes the kindred spirit of unity and solidarity among MSU constituents.”

He also added that this program ushers in a refreshing opportunity that not only facilitates sportsmanship and meaningful social engagement among our scholars but also strengthens the peace advocacy of the MSU System through the celebration of talents, promotion of cultural integration, and healthy athletic competition. “As we

formally welcome the start of this year’s intramurals of your campus, I am delighted to recognize MSU-GenSan’s firm commitment to pursue and realize varied means of promoting peace and well-being to sustain a vibrant and progressive learning institution in this locality.”

This was followed by the performances of the different colleges in the mass dance competition. The College of Engineering dominated the competition while the Senior High School bagged the 1st runner-up, and the 2nd runner-up was garnered by the College of Education.

To signify the start of the Intramural Games, the lighting of the symbolic torch was led by Manilyn Kapitan setting ablaze the spirit of camaraderie and sportsmanship. Thereafter, the event commenced with the official declaration of the opening of Intramurals 2022 by the Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA.

On the same day, the 16 candidates for the most-awaited Ms. Intramurals 2022 took the center court to showcase their physique and poise. All the members of the competing teams were cheering and rooting for their respective representatives. The candidates oozed beauty and charms, donning their elegant and creative festival and playsuit attires. Finally, Ms. Hazel Jane Anating from the College of Education bagged the Miss MSU crown. In solidarity with the celebrations, the University through the Alumni Relations Office hosted the Himamat 2022 at the Laktanan Reflex Garden, Library Building Grounds joined by the alumni of MSU-GenSan.





## A vibrant collage of 20 photographs showcasing various school activities, including sports, cultural performances, and student events, set against a red geometric background. The images are arranged in a grid-like fashion, with each photo framed by a white border. The activities depicted include: a man speaking at a podium, a basketball game, a student in a costume, a group of students in traditional attire, a student in a costume, a student in a costume, a student in a costume, a student in a costume, a student in a costume, a student in a costume, a student in a costume, a student in a costume, a student in a costume, a student in a costume, a student in a costume, a student in a costume, a student in a costume, a student in a costume, a student in a costume, a student in a costume, a student in a costume. The collage is set against a red background with white geometric patterns.



# MSU – GENERAL SANTOS CO – HOSTS KALILANGAN FESTIVAL 2023

| Raydan M. Tangwayan, LPT



Mindanao State University – General Santos City was once again chosen by the City Government of General Santos to organize the Kalilangan Festival 2023. Kalilangan is known as the ‘Cultural Festival’ of the city, which celebrates the shared histories among its Tri-People inhabitants, with a particular focus on their cooperation, unity, and harmonious coexistence, while recognizing their rich cultural heritage and vibrant traditions.

The Kalilangan Festival 2023 adopted a hybrid modality of conducting the festival celebration. Since the partnership between Mindanao State University – General Santos City and the City Government of General Santos in 2011, putting activities online was the least of the priorities. To reminisce, the partnership of LGU-GenSan and the University in hosting the Kalilangan Festival led to its Hall of Fame Distinction as Best Tourism Event of the Philippines-Culture and Arts Category by the Association of Tourism Officers of the Philippines (ATOP) from 2011 to 2013.

When the pandemic hit, the secretariat shifted into a full-blown online Kalilangan Festival. From this experience came the “Kalilangan Festival: Kuru-Kultura,” where all activities, competitions, and

contests were conducted online. The 34th Kalilangan Festival and the 84th Foundation Anniversary of General Santos City this year are described as the “vengeance” for the three-year hiatus of social gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On February 23, 2023, the Honorable Mayor Lorelie Geronimo-Pacquiao opened the ceremony by banging the ‘Agong’ three times symbolically waking up the Generals from three years of social distancing. Former Senator Manny Pacquiao was also present at the program. The Acting Chancellor of Mindanao State University – General Santos City, JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA, who organized this year’s Kalilangan Festival, entered the stage with glam and colors, depicting the rich Maranao culture. Acting Chancellor Aragasi emphasized the importance of the Local Government and MSU’s partnership in fostering good relationships and highlighting culture and arts.

The Grand Opening Night offered a production like no other as it was performed by the Kuerdas Band, the Mindanao State University’s Kabpapagariya Ensemble, Madayaw Dabaw, Step One, Regional Police Office XII dancers, and the Ramon Magsaysay Memorial College’s Teatro Ambahanon. Performers showed the roots of Dadiangas, as a representation of a historical milieu, the calamities experienced during

the COVID-19 pandemic, and the resulting “Bayanihan” and the acts of kindness, love, and care shown during this most trying time of the city.

Meanwhile, a sea of people was witnessed on the night of February 24, 2023, during the concert of Chocolate Factory, a Filipino reggae band whose songs are popular among the youth, like “Kung Ika’y Akin” and “Letra”. With Chocolate Factory’s presence, Kalilangan Festival 2023 became an opportunity to bond and celebrate, and it served as the revenge of the Generals from the three-year pandemic with restrictions and stay-at-home directives. The Kalilangan Festival Secretariat’s mitigation for security risks was the fostered partnership with the Philippine National Police, City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, and the City Health Office. Thankfully, the crowd was respectful of the rules set by the PNP, like the disallowed backpacks. The celebration ended at around midnight. Aside from music, food, carnival, and flea market contributed to the overall fun experience.

A tribute to the festival sponsors and supporters of the Kalilangan Festival 2023, Daluyan: Sponsor’s Night, was held at the Grand Summit Hotel on February 25, 2023. “The activity is not just a mere social night. This is also an opportunity for small business sectors to venture with others, and for SMEs to initiate possible business partnerships”, said Festival Manager, Dr. Alma Celestia D. Aguja.

The “Kalilangan ng Batang





General: GenSan Tri-People Youth Convergence" event was also one of the new activities conducted during the festival. It was held on February 26 at the KCC Convention Center. The event aimed to celebrate diversity and promote cultural appreciation of GenSan's heritage. It brought together the city's youth to collaborate on common issues and concerns that affect them, emphasizing the importance of unity among the youth sector despite cultural differences in the community. The participants were inspired by the message of the City Mayor, Hon. Lorelie G. Pacquiao, about the important role of the youth in the development of General Santos City. Moreover, their resolve was strengthened by the reactions and guidance of guests Reactors, led by no less than the Executive Director of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Sir Oscar "Oca" Casaysay, and facilitators led by Al-Nezzar Ali, the Artistic Director of the Kalilangan Festival. The organizers were led by the Mindanao State University - General Santos' Institute for Peace and Development, while the Department of Education (DepEd) principals and teachers who were alumni of the MSU Kabpapagariya Ensemble were also present.

On February 27, 2023, the Wreath-Laying and Parada ng Lahi happened. Parada ng Lahi and Wreath Laying is an institutional activity where flowers and salutes from the people and military men were offered to the late General Paulino Santos. Different government agencies and stakeholders in General Santos City took part in the eagerly awaited parade of history by dressing in traditional attire typical of the city's three main ethnic groups.

ON CELEBRATING MILESTONES

This event warms and rekindles the sense of solidarity among the city's unique culture. Following the solemn ceremony, there was also a 21-gun salute and a wreath-laying ceremony in commemoration of the contributions of the pioneers of the city, especially General Paulino Santos.

After the Parada ng Lahi, a motorcade led the iconic Kadsagayan Streetdance Parade in the afternoon. The Kadsagayan Street Dance Competition featured five contingents from Lanao del Sur, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao Province, and two entries from GenSan, was the highlight of the Grand Fingle. The Sibib National Salindaw Performing Guild of Tulunan, North Cotabato emerged as the champion, while the Sibol Performing Arts of General Santos City took the title of first runner-up and Kulintayaw Performing Artist Collective of General Santos City as the second runner-up.

The program was attended by no less than Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines, Her Excellency Sara Z. Duterte, who praised the city's success as the Festival Guest Speaker. "Without a doubt, General Santos City is a shining story of success. As a Mindanawon, we share the pride that you have." She was introduced by Congressman Loreto B. Acharon, who highlighted the significance of culture in his

message. Meanwhile, the City Mayor Lorelie Geronimo Pacquiao gave her welcome message. "Kailangan walang maiiwan na mamamayan sa pag-unlad ng GenSan. Ang nais ko lamang ay ang pamumuhong walang lamangan, walang siran, at walang hilaan pababa dahil ang lahat ng ating pagsisikap ay para sa ikabubuti at ikauunlad ng ating lungsod", Mayor Pacquiao remarked.

In the closing night of the whole festival celebration, it was filled with powerful vocals, ethno-inspired performances, and a band concert in a native dialect and ended with the declaration and awarding of prizes given by the City Mayor Lorelie Geronimo Pacquiao, First Gentleman Bobby Pacquiao, Festival Director Shandee Ilido-Pestaño, and MSU Vice Chancellor Dr. Mishell Lawas, representing Acting Chancellor Usman Aragasi, with a dazzling firework display. The program was followed by band

concerts featuring Kuerdas, Rocksteday, and a Cueshet hat attracted huge crowds, creating long queues of

spectators never before seen in the history of the festival.







## MSU – GENSAN CELEBRATES NATIONAL ARTS MONTH, MOUNTS PAGTAMBUNGAW SA SINING PLAYS

| Sofia Luxel Alburo, Gr. 11-STEM

February is not only a month to celebrate love, but also to provide a spotlight for one of the best expressions of human imagination and creativity: arts. Presidential Proclamation 683 of 1991 declares the month of February as National Arts Month. After a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual celebration of the Mindanao State University– General Santos Senior High School, the Pagtambungaw sa Sining: 34th Season and Festival of Dramatic Arts has returned on stage held at the University Gymnasium of MSU-GenSan last February 6 to 11. This soulful and gleaming festival weaved together the artistic potential of Filipino theater.

Spearheaded by the playwright and director Norman Ralph Isla, the event was presented by the Senior High School Department of MSU-GSC, in partnership with the Supreme Student Council, Cultural Affairs Office, Basic Institute for Dramatic Arts (BIDA) General Santos, and the Sining Kabpapagariya Ensemble of MSU-GSC.

In a span of 6 days, the spotlight beamed upon the students of the SHS Department revealing their various talents and skills in the form of three theatrical plays that reflect the cultures in the Philippines, particularly those of Moros, Indigenous Peoples, and Christians. With the MSU population being a melting pot of cultural and religious backgrounds, these plays commemorate and give tribute, in the form of arts, to those groups as they

continue to ingrain the university's image as the National Peace University.

The first that was featured on stage was Norman Ralph Isla's "May Anghel Tuwing Umuulan," a two-part musical directed by Ralph Valdueza, Godwin Palapar, and Athea Guinares. The play was presented in the participation of STEM Reimann and Descartes, remarkably featuring the famous songs of Asia's Songbird Regine Velasquez-Alcasid. It raised the ambient soul of the audience to a broad shared smile, reminding them that at moments we are drowning in challenges, an angel will throw a rope and anchor us back to life.

The floor was also given to Jaydee Paid's "Ang Pag-ibig ng Ikapitong Busay," a new chapter after the play "Ang Busao." In the direction of Johann Andaya and Sophia Revil, along with STEM Euler and Euclid, the play stimulated emotions that stir the soul, leaving spectators to contemplate about the qualities of love and how tolerance and sacrifice pave the way to achieving a peaceful tomorrow.

On the third day, lights were illuminated upon the adaptation of Norman Ralph Isla's "Ang Paglalayag ni Ihsan," under the creative direction of Monlouie Sorzano and with its student directors Aliyah Espino, Maxine Saplor, and Adrian Merzon. The play was demonstrated by a collaboration of sections, namely STEM Gauss, Wiles, and Leibniz, which brought the audience into Ihsan's magical world and his story of

destiny, love, and courage without leaving their seats.

"The festival gave the students an avenue to showcase their talents and skills. It also promoted the value of the arts (dramatic arts specifically) in the Philippines due to the fact that some of the plays involve cultural aspects. As one of the student directors, I say that it gave me the opportunity of a lifetime, helped me establish my legacy, and gave me a chance to showcase my talent and skills in the field of dramatic arts. Because of that, there are some offers and organizations that are inviting me to join them. I am very thankful to the school and to the teachers and professors that guide me. I would like to extend my gratitude to my teams, STEM- Riemann and Descartes," shared by student-director Godwin Palapar, in an interview.

As the curtains fell signaling the end of each performance, the crowd clasped their hands together in applause, filling the place with cheers. At its resolution, praises and reactions from the audience were seen and heard thus signifying another entertaining and impressive season and festival of dramatic arts.

Truly, art is channeled through the heart and takes a life of its own. Through the return of theater on stage, stories become a living, breathing work of art before the eyes of the public.

## ON PROMOTING FILIPINO CREATIVE STORIES: UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES NATIONAL LITERATURE MONTH

| Nemrose Andil, 1st Year-BAELS

Umbrellas cluttered the long road to shield the students against the heat, yet their burning hearts continued scintillating. This was the common scenario in the University Quadrangle at the "Parada ng Kultura" during the closing program for the month-long celebration of "Buwan ng Panitikan 2023."

In solidarity with the national celebration of literature month, Mindanao State University – General Santos (MSU-GenSan) held a college-wide "Buwan ng Panitikan" for the whole month of April. The students upheld the Filipino culture and their love and appreciation for Philippine Literature.

The said event was launched by the Department of Filipino and Samahan ng mga Mag-aaral sa AB Filipino (SABFIL), with the collaborative effort of Samahan ng Filipino sa Edukasyon (SAFE) and other offices and academic organizations.

### Bringing Folklore into Life

To hoist the foundation of Philippine Literature, students with Filipino courses were enjoined to attend the

festivity. The students then got split into eight groups according to their course instructor. The group names were based on Philippine mythology, particularly, the deities and monsters that encompassed the breadth of Filipino beliefs and customs. The group names were Pangkat Analogay, Anitun Tabu, Bakunawa, Ibu, Lumabat, Mapulon, Mayari, and Mebuyan. Each group has its peculiar set of stories, characters, and colors that they can integrate into their groups.

### Filipino-styled Competitions

Moreover, the events were student-centered as they let them embody the spirit of competitiveness and at the same time enjoy the different fun and exhilarating events. This variety of events that the students can participate in includes "KAKASA KA BA O KAKABA KA BA: Tagisan ng Talino", a quiz bee; "DIBUHU: Paligsahan sa pagkuha ng litrato", a photography competition; "Laro ng Lahi", Filipino traditional games; and "HIMIG: Timpalak sa Pagsasalang Awit", a song translation contest.

The celebration officially ended

at the University Quadrangle as they awarded the winners of each competition and the overall champion which was both clinched by Pangkat Ibu and Mapulon. SABFIL President Janice Cadorna congratulated every student for their active participation in the fiery fight of the Buwan ng Panitikan, ending the events with closed umbrellas as the students went home, yet their burning hearts remained the same.





# UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES 122ND PHILIPPINE SERVICE ANNIVERSARY

| Eunece V. Naive



Mindanao State University – General Santos joined the Civil Service Commission and other government agencies in celebrating the 122nd Philippine Civil Service Anniversary with the theme, “Transforming Public Service in the Decade: Honing Agile and Future-Ready Servant Heroes” on September 28, 2022. All University personnel were enjoined to participate in the morning and afternoon activities prepared for the celebration.

In the morning, Larong Pinoy was held in the vicinity of the Administration Building’s open grounds. The University prepared several skills-oriented activities and games such as Takyar, Blind Volleyball, Sack Race, Tug of War, and Darts to promote health and wellness. Faculty and staff actively participated in the Larong Pinoy as they were divided into 4 team colors: Blue (Offices under the Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development), Red (Offices under the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance), Green (Offices under the Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension).

planting activity in that the officials, faculty, and staff participated. Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA, led the event stressing the significance of the University’s initiatives toward a cleaner, greener and more sustainable environment. Thereafter, the employees planted a number of Narra seedlings on the MSU field.

The activities for the annual celebration of the Philippine Civil Service were spearheaded by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance in cooperation with the Human Resource Management Office. The celebration is pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 1050, series of 1997, signed by former Fidel V. Ramos, declaring September as Civil Service Month. Presidential Proclamation No. 1050, s. 1997 says: “All agencies, offices, and instrumentalities of government shall implement the programs promulgated by the Civil Service Commission and shall actively participate, as well as ensure the active involvement of their officials and employees, in the activities that the Commission may deem necessary for the meaningful and successful celebration of the Civil Service Month.”

In the afternoon, the University organized a tree

## HIMAMAT 2022: MSU GENSAN ALUMNI RECONNECT TO CELEBRATE UNIVERSITY MILESTONES

| Raydan M. Tangwayan, LPT

The Mindanao State University – General Santos City Alumni Relations Office (ARO) organized the highly anticipated “Himamat 2022,” a remarkable alumni gathering held on November 22, 2022, to celebrate the University’s 49th Foundation Anniversary and Intramurals.

After a prolonged hiatus of activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, alumni from various batches enthusiastically came together to honor their alma mater, reminisce on their time at the university, and strengthen the bonds that tie them as part of the MSU GenSan community.

The event provided a much-needed opportunity for former students to reconnect with the university that nurtured their dreams and aspirations. Amid the relaxed COVID-19 protocols following a decline in reported cases, participants adhered to precautionary measures such as social distancing and wearing face

masks when necessary.

The gathering was a delightful potluck, where alumni shared a wide array of sumptuous foods and beverages. To add to the festive and cultural atmosphere, music and games were organized with the university’s Kabpapagariya Ensemble and hosted by the Director of Student Affairs, Prof. Rhumer Lanojan. Attendees spanned across different graduation years, with alumni from as early as 1989 and 2022 graduates.

Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA, graced the occasion and expressed his heartfelt gratitude to everyone for their active participation in the university’s activities. He acknowledged the alumni’s invaluable contributions to the institution and extended his warm appreciation for their continued support.

Dir. Alma Celesthia Dumalag-Aguja, DM, OIC-Director of ARO, also emphasized the significant role played by the alumni in making the event possible. She highlighted their dedication

and encouraged them to support the university’s future endeavors. During the gathering, Dr. Aguja presented the Laktanan Wellness Garden, a tangible representation of the collective support and efforts of the alumni community.

Looking ahead, 2023 holds a momentous occasion for MSU-GenSan, as the university will celebrate its 50th Founding Anniversary, a remarkable milestone in its history. With eager anticipation, the university management, ARO, alumni associations, and the entire alumni community eagerly await an even grander celebration to mark this golden anniversary.

As the MSU-GenSan community continues to thrive, the bonds forged among its alumni grow stronger. This demonstrates an unwavering commitment to the university’s success and the enduring spirit of camaraderie that defines Mindanao State University – General Santos City.



Gathered in community spirit, MSU-GenSan alumni join in the traditional parade of delegations during the Intramurals 2022.



# SALA





G AND THANKSGIVING DINNER

# SALAMAT

## Kadayo







# GENSAN HEIS PARTICIPATE IN HINABI 2023: SPORTS AND CULTURAL ENCOUNTER

|Romeo Tejada

Channeling the competitive spirits in terms of sports and performances, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in General Santos City gathered last April 26, 2023, at MSU-General Santos for HINABI 2023: Sports and Cultural Encounter with the theme, “Kaibigan, Kalaro, Kasama”.

Acting Chancellor JD. Usman D. Aragasi, MPA welcomed all delegates from various schools to the event, and Bro. Manuel V. de Leon, NDDU President cascaded the rationale of HINABI which is to display the skills and competitive spirits while promoting camaraderie, sportsmanship, cooperation, and peace among students.

As students are set to compete in events such as soccer, softball, basketball (men), and volleyball (women), MSU-GenSan Basketball Team Captain, Mr. John Lerry Sulmaca led the Panata ng Mga Manlalaro to amplify the spirit of sportsmanship

throughout the event. Recognizing all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), school hymns of Notre Dame Of Dadiangas University (NDDU), Ramon Magsaysay Memorial College (RMMC), Cronasia Foundation College (CFC), Brokenshire College Incorporated, and Mindanao State University- General Santos (MSU-GenSan) resonated inside the gymnasium.

School heads, Presidents, and representatives from the media were also present during the event to support this peace initiative such as Dr. Kris Millaro of RMMC, Atty. Clariz Non Dizon of CFC, Dr. Benneth Mercado of Brokenshire College, Mr. Danny Sabino of DXCP Radyo Totoo, and school administrators of NDDU.

After the sports events, cultural exchange and fellowship were conducted inside the gymnasium where various performing groups and ensembles from

different schools showcased their vocal dynamics and cultural performances.

This activity was hosted by MSU-General Santos thru the Office of the Chancellor, in partnership with the Office of the Student Affairs and Services (OSAS), Sports Development Office (SDO), Institute of Peace and Development in Mindanao (IPDM), Center for Women’s Studies (CWS), Gender and Development Focal Point System (GFPS), Cultural Affairs Office (CAO), and Physical Education Students Organization (PESO).

With shared efforts from various stakeholders throughout the city, the activity was a success. It provided an opportunity for students to meet fellow sports enthusiasts, and build external links. Competitions, like HINABI, do not necessarily cause division but provide a platform for holistic development, understanding, sportsmanship, and peace.



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