



Tarlac State University Bulletin

ISSUED MONTHLY
BY THE OFFICE OF
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY
ISSN 1908-7101 ▪ Issue No. 104 ▪ July 2021

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Tarlac State University opened its Main Campus gymnasium to become the 2nd Mega Vaccination Hub of Tarlac City last July 24, 2021 in response to the Tarlac City Government's plans for a faster vaccine rollout.

This second vaccination site is the city government's solution to accommodate the increasing number of citizens who wants to be vaccinated moving the city closer to herd immunity, said City Health Officer Dra. Carmela Go in an interview with the Tarlac City Information Office (CIO).

TSU President Dr. Myrna Q.

Mallari responded affirmatively to the City Government's request to help the community through public service.

"Ang ating masipag na mayor na si City Mayor Angeles ay nag-request nito sa TSU – na magamit ang ating TSU Gym para lubos na mapagsilbihan ang ating mga kababayan dito sa Tarlac City sa kanilang pagbabakuna. At, agaran pong pumayag ang TSU dahil gusto po naming makatulong upang ang mga kababayan natin ay mabakunahan na. In fact, ine-encourage po namin silang magpabakuna," said President Mallari in a video interview with the CIO.

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DOST III launches Safe Food Digest with TSU as technical consultant

■ Maria Adelaida D. Calayag

The Department of Science and Technology Region III (DOST III) formally launched the Safe Food Digest in Central Luzon via Zoom last July 30, 2021, with Tarlac State University serving as technical consultant.

The one-hour virtual launch was graced by food safety experts and advocates from Central Luzon, Dr. Imelda Agdeppa, Mr. Jun Barnes, and Engr. Sancho Mabborang.

The first-ever safe food digest was conceptualized in 2019 with the help of the Tarlac City government, TSU, and DOST, and

will be maintained by the DOST Regional Food Safety Team.

TSU partnered with DOST on a grants-in-aid (GIA)-funded project to build a model food safety control system for Tarlac City's food service operators and street vendors. This is in support of Republic Act No. 10661 or the Food Safety Act of the Philippines.

"This is a very important project that helps our small, micro, and medium enterprises in their business undertakings which is actually a

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TSU becomes 2nd mega vaccination hub for Tarlac City

■ Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan

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“At, itong nakaraang Friday ay nag-visit na po sila: in-ocular ang ating gym, tinulungan po natin sila sa ibang logistics, like ‘yung mga table, chairs at iba pang pangangailangan,” President Mallari added.

In an interview with Tarlac City Mayor Ma. Cristina “Cristy” Angeles, who received her single dose of COVID-19 vaccine (Janssen) at the TSU gym on July 29, 2021, she shared her immense gratitude to the university for granting her request to use the gymnasium as a vaccination hub.

“Alam naman nating lahat na in the whole province of Tarlac, Tarlac State University is our pride. It has all the best facilities na binibigay sa mga students and of course this mega hub gym ninyo -- this is something that Tarlac is proud of to have. Hindi man kami- but through your president Madam Myrna Mallari was very gracious enough at pinahiram niya sa atin to,” she said.

“This is the biggest in the whole of Tarlac na ganito kalaking gymnasium. And, we are thankful na ito ay nasa Tarlac City. That’s why we put it up here. Alam namin na magiging komportable ang mga babakunahan natin -- may mga waiting areas tayo like the bleachers kaya maraming-maraming salamat Tarlac State University,” she finished.

The TSU Gym has been segregated into different areas: waiting area, screening area, jabbing area, and post-vaccination area.

Aside from lending the venue and provision of other necessities like tables and chairs, TSU also provided manpower.

According to University Physician Dr. Rommel M. Hernandez, nurses from



‘yung venue, hinati natin yung nursing services. Meron pa din nagke-cater doon, pero binawasan natin to two. ‘Yung karamihan sa kanila andito ngayon sa TSU Gym,” Dr. Hernandez said in an interview with the Office of Public Affairs.

The nurses assigned at the TSU vaccination hub are Ms. Cheryll Abila, Ms. Mary Gentes Peña, Ms. Rhoda Feliciano, and Ms. Marites Lapuz; while Mr. Albert Canlas and Mr. William Salak are on stand-by as first-aiders.



Aside from this, the Human Resource Development and Management Office (HRDMO) under the leadership of Director Marlon C. Dela Cruz has provided five fully vaccinated personnel as volunteer encoders to speed up the processing queue.

Dr. Hernandez further shared that extensive internal coordination was done to strengthen the implementation of minimum health protocols. It was done with the help of the VPPQA (Vice President for Planning and Quality Assurance) as Dr. Niño B. Copruz is also the protocol officer; the VPAF (Vice President for Administration and Finance) under Dr. Marlon V. Gamido who provided extra security and other necessary equipment; and the HRDMO for the encoders.

“This is part of our commitment, hindi lang sa TSU kung ‘di pati sa ating city. Ang ine-expect nating magiging

output nito is a better promotion of health lalo na doon sa prevention of COVID-19 especially since single dose lang ito [Janssen]. So, as far as compliance is concerned, maganda itong na-avail ng city na single dose jab kasi at least maa-attain natin yung goal natin – this herd immunity within sa city as a whole,” Dr. Hernandez said.

It is expected that around 1,500 Tarlaqueños will be screened and vaccinated each day until July 30, 2021. There are no walk-ins allowed as those who were registered online and via hotline under the A2 (Senior Citizens) and A3 (Persons with comorbidities) priority groups will be receiving a text message as proof of schedule.

As early as 7:00 AM, members from the different LGU agencies are already on site. Doctors, nurses, and officers from Tarlac City Health Office, DOH Tarlac City, as well as barangay health workers are also present. Officers from the City’s Traffic Management Unit were there to help the TSU Civil Security Unit for crowd control, and officers from the City Social Welfare and Development Office were also present to assist PWDs and senior citizens.

When asked about whether TSU is ready for an extension of service, Dr. Hernandez replied, “Diretso ‘yung service natin dito as far as the MSU is concerned. Nandoon tayo sa gym hanggang Friday [July 30] to assist the LGU sa vaccination hub na ito. Now, if meron silang request later on to extend, kaya naman natin ‘yon. Meron naman tayong mga safety protocols – in place naman iyon. So, kayang-kaya ni TSU.”

Moreover, the Tarlac City Council issued Resolution No. VIII-29-312, s. 2021 to convey their appreciation and gratitude to the university for the support and assistance as alternate vaccination hub for the residents of the city.

TSU holds 1st face-to-face graduation for grad school & SOL under new normal; still online for undergrad

■ Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan



Tarlac State University held its first face-to-face commencement exercises for its graduate programs and School of Law (SOL) on July 16, 2021 at the Lucinda Extension Campus following the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020.

The 32nd Commencement Exercises were held separately for the safety and well-being of the students and selected visitors, strictly following the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) protocols of the province and local government unit (LGU) guidelines. The graduate programs’ graduation was held on the grounds of the Academic Building with 43 candidates, while the SOL graduation was held at the Alumni Center with 11 candidates.



“Today marks another history in the book of life of Tarlac State University because you will be the first batch of graduates – face-to-face – in this celebration under the new normal. It is not easy to get the approval of the board to allow us to have a face-to-face graduation. That’s why I hope you understand that we’re

strictly implementing some protocols,” said TSU President Dr. Myrna Q. Mallari in her short message to the graduates.

On June 30, 2021, the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs submitted a letter of intent to the Provincial IATF for the authorization of the face-to-face ceremonies. After submitting the necessary requirements such as emergency response guidelines, venue capacity, health/infection control



policy, and event action plan, TSU has been granted permission on July 13, 2021 provided that the university will ensure the proper measures and align them with the Provincial and City’s health and safety protocol issuances.

This includes compliance with minimum health protocols such as wearing face masks and face shields at all times, body temperature check, hand sanitation, and strict adherence to the program schedule.

The graduating students were

instructed to occupy their designated seats upon arrival. Their guests were also limited to one which were seated in a separate area.

“Since TSU always [follows] and [complies] with the IATF and LGU guidelines and at the same time has its established health and safety protocols implemented in the university, our application or request for permit to hold limited face to face graduation [for] our Graduate School graduating students and School of Law graduating students was not that difficult,” said Vice President for Academic Affairs Erwin P. Lacanlale in a message.

“We complied [with] all the IATF-Tarlac protocol requirements and



ensured them that [these] will be observed during the holding of the said graduation ceremony. Since our Lucinda Campus is spacious, and we held the ceremony in an open space, we protected and safeguarded our

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graduating students and our TSU personnel,” he added.

Because of the minimal number of candidates for graduation, the Graduate School and SOL were allowed to have the limited face-to-face graduation. They are all of legal age and followed the protocols that had been communicated to them prior to the conduct of the ceremony.

The graduates received their diploma without the usual handshake and were already wearing their respective *lambal*. Previously, post-baccalaureate graduates had to walk up the stage with the *lambal* folded on their right arm, then kneel on a small kneeler where their respective college deans would don the *lambal*. However, this tradition was omitted to observe health protocols.

TSU WELCOMES ASSOC. JUSTICE ARCEGA

The SOL, under the leadership of Dean Jose I. Dela Rama, Jr., invited Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Hon. Maria Theresa V. Mendoza-Arcega as their guest of honor and speaker for their graduation ceremony.



In her message to the SOL graduates of 2021, she emphasized the importance of commencement exercises even with the pandemic.

“Noong panahon namin nila Dean Peng, things used to be simpler than how they are now. Take note, I use the words simpler not easier because we all know – and we can all attest to the fact that law school is never easy. Graduating from law school at a time of a global pandemic is not easy. As Barack Obama once said, ‘Graduation is a big achievement under any circumstances,’” said Justice Arcega.

“Your graduation, my dear future lawyers, come surrounded by uncertainty, fear, and anxiety. But despite all these seemingly negative circumstances, I want you all to remember and treat your graduation ceremony today as a shining beacon of hope – hope for better things and greater achievements waiting to be realized,” she added.

As a two-time examiner of Legal Ethics in the 2015 and 2019 Bar Examinations,



the Associate Justice offered review tips to the graduating class for their Bar exams.

Moreover, she shared two important values that lawyer aspirants should have to succeed: grit and faith.

Justice Arcega, a Certified Public Accountant and a lawyer, started her career as an Executive Assistant at the Supreme Court of the Philippines. She then rose from the ranks and became an Executive Judge of the Regional Trial Court of Bulacan and the Presiding Judge of a designated Family Court.

This paved the way for her designation as a regular representative to the International Hague Network of Judges as a member of the Supreme Court’s Committee on the Family Courts and Juvenile Concerns and the Technical Working Group on Hague Child Support. She is also a member of the Council of ASEAN Chief Justices Working Group on cross-border disputes involving children.

The number of graduates is broken down as follows:

College	Graduates
College of Engineering and Technology	157
College of Architecture and Fine Arts	77
College of Teacher Education	4
College of Business and Accountancy	252
College of Arts and Social Sciences	42
College of Computer Studies	115
College of Public Administration and Governance	79

Meanwhile, the Baccalaureate Mass was held the day before which was presided by Rev. Fr. Raymund Cruz, Director of Radio Maria Philippines, at the TSU Main Campus AVR and was livestreamed by the OPA on Facebook and YouTube.

An active officer of the Philippine Women Judges Association and the Regional Director for Asia-Pacific of the International Women Judges from 2019, Justice Arcega is also a Professor of Law at San Beda University, her alma mater, and Bulacan State University.

STILL VIRTUAL GRADUATION FOR THE BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMS

The graduation ceremony for the baccalaureate programs was held virtually via Facebook Live and YouTube on the afternoon of July 16, 2021 through the Office of Public Affairs (OPA) sending off 726 graduates.

The online graduation still followed the traditional commencement exercises program where President Mallari virtually conferred the degrees of the candidates.

Deans and program chairpersons announced the names of the graduates one by one and were simultaneously flashed on screen together with their submitted photos.

EDITORIAL

In a country where both politics and sports are highly debated topics, Filipinos’ eyes are glued to their television sets or smartphones to follow latest happenings. Now that the Philippines is badly hit by the pandemic with another stricter quarantine looming, sports may be the least of the worries because everyone is waiting for updates on plans regarding the new COVID variant.

On July 26, 2021, Philippine President Rodrigo Roa Duterte delivered his last State of the Nation Address which signals the near end of his six-year term. Coincidentally, a new dawn has begun for the Philippines on the very same day when Hidilyn Diaz, a Filipina weightlifter, snatched the much coveted and very first Olympic gold medal for the country. As President Duterte’s speech ended, the news on Diaz’ triumph surfaced online. Some may say that Diaz’s victory has overshadowed President Duterte’s SONA. These may seem incomparable, but they are regarded as milestones in the rich history of the Philippines — they are still unparalleled in their own way.

The sixth and final SONA, as the name implies, is an overview of his administration’s accomplishments for

the last six years. President Duterte’s speech was his way of reminiscing what transpired over the years saying, “Today, as I approach...my end of my term, I have less visions, but more remembrances.” He has reminded Filipinos about his unyielding support to the uniformed personnel; accomplishments of the controversial war on drugs and National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict; and the international conflicts faced by the Philippines, among others. As usual, his speech has induced a combination of appreciative applauses and raised eyebrows of some Filipinos expressing their content and disagreement.

But these raised eyebrows were changed to victorious eyes when the breaking news about Diaz’ triumph in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics were published all over the Internet. A glimmer of hope on the status of the country relative to sports was evident among the social media postings of Filipino netizens. In a sport normally dominated by strong, muscular men, a Filipina athlete proved that the Philippines could make it. In a time when Filipinos needed some lifting, she surely took the weight on her shoulders to set a record and make her country proud. Diaz carved the

The end of an era, the beginning of a new dawn

Philippines in the Olympic history with its first gold medal since the country’s first athlete waved the flag in 1924. Surely, this is a feat to be extremely proud of.

Both President Duterte and Diaz have their own means to ignite nationalism and patriotism among Filipinos. Setting aside biases and prejudices, both have certain positive contributions encapsulated in their own craft – President Duterte in his administration while Diaz in sports. Agreeing to disagree in whatever personal or official actions they have done or will have to be done, their names are already tied to the Philippines’ name.

With every ending comes a brighter beginning; when a door closes, a window will be wide open. Sometimes, when personal biases get in the way, we fail to see what is happening in front of our eyes, recognize contributions for the betterment, and acknowledge that something is already ending. Symbolically, the SONA is the end of the Duterte administration, but he has the “Duterte Legacy” which will be part of history books. Similarly, Diaz marks the beginning of a new dawn for the Philippines especially in sports, opening its doors to countless possibilities and opportunities while carrying the name of our country.

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part of their daily livelihood,” TSU President Dr. Myrna Q. Mallari said.

During the virtual launching, Dr. Agdeppa said if the food is not properly served, handled, or if it is prepared in an unsanitary area, the chances of customers contracting illnesses such as diarrhea and dehydration are high.

President Mallari also mentioned that part of the project is expected to include a face-to-face training, consultancy, and coaching for stakeholders, but this has yet to materialize to safeguard everyone’s health.

“[The] Pandemic should not stop us from helping our stakeholders. The DOST, TSU, and those who are involved in this project have thought of some mechanisms to bring the same services to our stakeholders and partners by writing these things that these stakeholders can learn from in food safety. And this is through the [Safe] Food Digest,” President Mallari said in her speech.

While the pandemic hindered the in-

SAFE FOOD Digest



person training, Dr. Lea B. Milan, TSU Food Technology and Research Center Director, printed copies of the Safe Food Digest which were turned over to the city government for distribution to vendors.

In April 2019, the Tarlac City Economic Management Office identified 25 food service

operators and ambulant street food vendors in Tarlac City which were visited by the TSU Food Safety Team for inspection. The team analyzed food and water samples to study the state of food and food contact surfaces.

After the data gathering and inspection, the team presented the results and recommendations last September 24, 2020 at the Executive Boardroom or the Tarlac City Hall. They also mentioned the possible pathogenic microorganisms that can affect customers’ bowel movement like bacteria, salmonella, Escherichia coliform or E. Coli, and Hepatitis A virus.

The team discussed and taught the vendors about cleanliness and sanitation, including the hygienic condition of food contact surfaces and proper handling of food orders, such as handling of straws that should be wrapped in tissue, proper use of trays, proper handling of glasses, and the like.

Vendors were also advised to prepare and buy fresh ingredients, to follow the “first in, first out” method, and to always have a potable water supply.

Dr. Mallari's 63rd birthday, a morning surprise

■ Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan

Staff from the Office of the University President, vice presidents, and other officials and personnel went out of their way to hold an early morning surprise for Dr. Myrna Q. Mallari on July 14, 2021 for her 63rd birthday where the Academic Building of the Lucinda Extension Campus was decorated with colorful balloons.

Pres. Mallari was guided to a lone chair in the middle of the Academic Building grounds where she watched a video compilation of birthday wishes from the TSU community, fellow SUC presidents, officials and staff of the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities (AACUP), friends, and family — something that the OUP staff has not yet done in their past birthday surprises for the President.

To ramp up the excitement, her grandchildren led a flash mob after watching the video greetings. Joining her grandchildren are some of the university's officials and staff to which she could not help but join in on the fun and danced to the BTS hit song "Dynamite."

Moreover, to keep their special performance a secret, Dr. Erwin P.



Lacanlale, Vice President for Academic Affairs, created a group chat where guide videos were sent so they can practice in their own homes.

When asked if she knew about the surprise, Pres. Mallari said she already had her suspicions.

"Ako 'yung nagsu-surprise, so I know all the techniques kaya hirap na hirap silang mag-surprise sa akin.

Nabubuking ko sila eh... Hindi sila umuuwi ng maaga. Ba't 'di sila uuwi ng maaga? Nag-iisip na ako 'nun," she said in an interview.

OUP staff Ms. Jinky Guzman and Ms. Emily Girpo worked with Prof. Myrel M. Santiago, only daughter of Pres. Mallari and the unit head of International Academic Programs, for the surprise. According to them, they had a tough time keeping it a secret.

"Siyempre nagpa-plano kami. Eh knowing Ma'am Myrna, alam niya lahat ng mga style namin at mga galaw," said Ms. Guzman.

They also shared that Pres. Mallari's family was cooperative with their plan and the BTS music was their suggestion.

"After office hours, 'pag umaalis na si ma'am, nag-uusap-usap na kami kung anong gagawin namin. Kasama namin sa pagpe-prepare and pagpa-plan si Ma'am Myrel. Nag-coordinate talaga with the family, kasi gusto naming maiba naman... 'Yung mga previous na surprises namin kay ma'am, meron siyang flowers, very plain," Ms. Guzman shared.

In a separate interview, Prof. Myrel noted that her mother enjoys

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moments with her 10 grandchildren, especially with Baby O, her youngest granddaughter. She also stated that Pres. Mallari supports her grandchildren's passion and admiration for BTS.

Furthermore, the organizers shared that they were rattled during the preparations. They even planned an "advance birthday surprise" a day before just to keep the president off their track.

"Nagkunwari kami ng advance surprise noong Tuesday. Nag-ahead kami para hindi na niya isipin na meron kaming surprise sa kanya, kasi nga magaling yung radar ni ma'am," said Ms. Guzman.

Despite careful preparations, it seems that luck is on Pres. Mallari's side.

On the day of the surprise, she left her home wearing a red blouse instead of yellow – the prescribed color every Wednesday. When she returned home to change, she was puzzled as to why her family's bedroom doors were locked when she tried to check on them.

Pres. Mallari said she was overwhelmed when she learned about the effort exerted by the staff and family members to stage a surprise celebration, citing that some even slept at the TSU Hotel to prepare while her family left their house early for the event.

"Those are already the important gifts. Kasi 'yung effort na iyon comes with love, you know? It comes with concern. 'Yung in-invite



'yung family ko tapos may dance presentation pa... it was really a memorable day for me. I felt the love from you people!" she said in an interview.

For her birthday wish, Pres. Mallari said that she has always been hoping for the same things: love, cooperation, and understanding.

"Iyon ang lagi kong birthday wish. Iyong magtulungan at lalong maging dedicated tayo sa ating pagsisilbi. Wala ng iba, because God has given everything to all of us. The mere fact na buhay tayo is already a gift from the Lord. Kaya iyon ang mga wish ko talaga — mawala iyong samaan ng loob at magkaintindihan... at patuloy tayong magtrabaho ayon sa tawag ng serbisyong publiko," Pres. Mallari said.



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Pres. Mallari appoints new CASS, CBA executives, re-appoints CSU head

■ Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



Dr. Winston F. Abalos



Dr. Brendalyn A. Manzano



Prof. Fabian P. Seguiria

TSU President Dr. Myrna Q. Mallari appointed Dr. Brendalyn A. Manzano as dean of the College of Arts and Social Sciences, Prof. Fabian P. Seguiria as officer-in-charge of the College of Business and Accountancy Dean's Office, and Dr. Winston F. Abalos as CBA associate dean, while Mr. Jayson R. Felix was re-appointed as Civil Security head by Dr. Marlon V. Gamido, Vice President for Administration and Finance.

Dr. Manzano was appointed through TSU Administrative Order No. 26, s. 2021 dated June 10, 2021. Her stint as the new CASS dean took effect on July 1, 2021 until March 31, 2022.

Prior to being appointed as dean, Dr. Manzano served as the chairperson of the Department of English Language Studies (formerly English Department) of the same college for almost nine years.

In 1999, she graduated from Central Luzon State University with a bachelor's degree in Education with a major in English as a cum laude. In 2002, she earned her master's degree in Education major in English Language Teaching from Wesleyan University Philippines.

She continued her studies after receiving a doctorate scholarship and research grant from TSU, and graduated from Philippine Normal University with a degree in Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics major in Applied Linguistics in 2011.

Dr. Manzano was also a commissioned researcher of Rex Book Store, Inc. She also worked as an outsourced evaluator and editor for the same publishing house's worktexts and teacher's manuals.

She has participated in various professional activities for teachers and other professions at

the local, national, and international levels as a resource speaker and trainer. She began her teaching career at TSU in 2002.

Meanwhile, Prof. Seguiria is currently the understudy of the CBA Office of the Dean and will assume office as the officer-in-charge on August 1, 2021 until March 31, 2022.

Prof. Seguiria was the Student Affairs and Services Dean from October 2019 to June 2021. He was also appointed as Associate Dean of CBA in 2019 and Director of Alumni Affairs Office in 2018.

He completed his Bachelor of Science in Business Accountancy major in Government Accounting and Auditing in 1987. He received his Master of Public Administration degree and is currently working on his Doctor of Public Administration. He earned all of his degrees at TSU.

Prof. Seguiria will work with



Mr. Jayson R. Felix



Mr. Arturo Panzo

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Dr. Abalos, the newly designated CBA Associate Dean, who is also the Alumni Affairs Office Director.

Dr. Abalos also served as Student Economic Development Head under the Student Affairs and Services in 2019.

In 2003, he graduated from TSU with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree major in Information System Management. He completed his studies in the same university and graduated in March 2007 with a master's degree in Business Administration.

In 2019, he received his Doctor of Business Administration degree from TSU, with a dissertation titled "Social Network Marketing in Micro, Small, Medium, and Large Enterprises in the Province of Tarlac."

Through Office Memorandum No. 10, s. 2021 dated July 7, VP Gamido appointed Mr. Felix, a full-time instructor at the

College of Criminal Justice and Education, as Head of the Civil Security Unit.

Mr. Felix was also the CSU Head from 2018 to 2020.

He will perform the functions outlined in Title 3, Chapter 14, Article 107, page 31 of the TSU Code and is also in charge of giving orders to all security guards and ensuring that security policies are followed to the letter.

Moreover, he will oversee reports on student violations, respond to emergencies, maintain peace and order, and ensure the safety and protection of persons and properties in the university.

In 2009, he earned his bachelor's degree in Criminology from the United School of Science and Technology. In 2014, he received his Master of Science in Criminology from Pan Pacific University.

Mr. Felix will work with Mr. Arturo Panzo, assistant head of the CSU. Mr. Panzo is the security guard turned lecturer of the College of Criminal Justice Education. In

Office Memorandum No. 11, s. 2021 dated July 9, he is required to report to the CSU daily during office hours.

Mr. Panzo began working as a security guard at TSU in 2006 where he juggled his time between work and studies, pursuing his Master of Arts in Public Administration degree at TSU, which he received in 2013.

In 2015, while finishing his Professional Education units, he became a part-time lecturer in the Criminology Department of TSU.

He is now a full-time instructor at the College of Criminal Justice Education and is currently enrolled at Universidad de Manila taking up Master of Science in Criminal Justice.



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SAS welcomes new director and section heads

■ Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan



Prof. Gherold C. Benitez



Prof. Shiela Jane L. Gonzales



Dr. Wilmark J. Ramos

Tarlac State University welcomed Prof. Gherold C. Benitez as the understudy officer of the Student Affairs and Services (SAS) in a concurrent capacity as head of the Student Development Services Unit via TSU Administrative Order No. 32, s. 2021.

Prof. Benitez' appointment as officer-in-charge of the SAS Director's Office is effective from August 1, 2021 until March 31, 2022.

For the past 23 years, he has been teaching the subjects Philosophy, Philippine History, Philippine Popular Culture, and the Philippine Constitution at TSU under the College of Arts and Social Sciences. He has also been a volunteer professor of Philosophy at the Our Lady of Peace College Seminary for eight years now.

Prof. Benitez earned his bachelor's degree in Philosophy with academic distinction from the Colegio de San Juan de Letran (Manila) in 1998. He also finished his master's degree in Public Administration in 2010 and Bachelor of Laws in 2018 at

TSU. Furthermore, he has completed the academic requirements for a master's degree in Philosophy from the University of Santo Tomas.

Before being designated as the head of the Student Development Services and concurrently the head of the Student Discipline Unit on February 2019, he was the president of the TSU Faculty and Personnel Union (TSUFPU) from 2014 to 2017.

During his term, he was elected twice as the president of the Philippine National Confederation of Faculty of Associations of State Universities and Colleges (PNCFASUC), a labor organization which advocates the rights of faculty and personnel of state universities and colleges.

He recounted that it was an overwhelming experience as he was the youngest representative and the voting count is only one per region.

As PNCFASUC president, his primary accomplishment was the successful processing of the National Budget Circular (NBC) No. 461 of the Department of Budget and

Management (DBM) which is the revised and updated compensation and position classification plan for faculty positions embodied in the National Compensation Circular (NCC) No. 69.

The Student Affairs Services of the university is responsible for establishing the policies pertinent to the welfare and development of the students.

PRIMARY FOCUS

According to Prof. Benitez, his primary goal as SAS Director is the development of the manual of operations for SAS that will eventually become an updated version of the Student Manual.

"Mula noong 2017 na nilabas 'yung student manual, walang naging review, walang naging revision, at walang naging amendment. Eh, ang kailangan diyan nari-revisit. There are actually 15 sections under SAS. At ang project ko ay dapat meron silang manual of operation kada section," he said in a phone interview.

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His target of completing the SAS operations manual is also in line with the university's upcoming Institutional Accreditation.

In addition, he stated that their services will be updated considering the ongoing pandemic noting that he had already shifted his services online last year as the head of the Student Discipline Unit.

"On my part na outgoing discipline [head], lahat ng ginawa ko during the pandemic ay online hearing, online filing of complaint, online sending of subpoena - puro online," he said.

Moreover, he has already completed preparations for a webinar about LGBTQIA+ rights for students with Dr. Rita E. Pulmano, Director for Gender and Development. Other webinars included in the lineup are introductions to cybercrime law and the Safe Space Act or Bawal Bastos Law.

NEW SECTION HEADS

Effective August 2021 via Office Memorandum Order No. 27, s. 2021, the new section heads of the Student Affairs Services are Dr. Wilmark J. Ramos for the Student Discipline Unit (SDU) and Prof. Shiela Jane L. Gonzales for the Economic Enterprise Development (EED) who are both from the College of Business and Accountancy (CBA).

These sections were previously led by Prof. Gherold Benitez and Dr. Winston F. Abalos, respectively.

Dr. Ramos earned his BSBA major in Marketing Management from the University of the Cordilleras and finished his master's and doctoral degrees in Business Administration from TSU. He is also a graduate of the University of the Philippines - Open University's Certificate in ASEAN Studies program and is currently

pursuing his Juris Doctor at the TSU School of Law.

A Registered Marketing Professional (RMP) and a Certified Professional Marketing Educator (CPME), Dr. Ramos is presently the program chairperson of the Department of Marketing Management. He is also a member of the Research Ethics Review Committee (RERC) and a graduate school faculty for the Doctor of Business Administration Program.

In a message, Dr. Ramos expressed his gratitude for the opportunity, "I am grateful and excited to work this time in a quite different work environment; from being in the frontline service of teaching the students, this time as support service that will foster student development -- more specifically on discipline."

He also shared that the SDU is now finalizing the Student Discipline Manual aimed to uphold its mandate especially in "efficiently resolving and disposing student discipline cases despite our very challenging (COVID) situation."

Meanwhile, Prof. Gonzales has been with the university since 2000. She began her career at the College of Technology (now College of Engineering and Technology) as a college clerk and part-time lecturer before becoming an instructor in the Department of Economics from 2013 to present.

She has worked with various offices and committees, including the Office of Public Affairs and Information (now Office of Public Affairs), Faculty Development Projects, College Energy Conservation Committee, Research, and Extension, not only for CBA but also for the College of Public Administration and Governance and the College of Arts and Social Sciences.

In 2014, she was a member

of the university's Institutional Accreditation Task Force for Area 3: Faculty and Staff. She was once again chosen to join the task force working on extension from June 2021.

Prof. Gonzales is also an active member of the TSUFPU having been elected as secretary from 2014 to 2015 and as vice president for faculty from 2015 to 2017.

"Serving the students is always a privilege. I am grateful for [my designation at] the Economic Entrepreneurial Development (EED) Unit, where the office aims to provide services and programs that would cater [to] the economic needs of our students by providing them [with] income generating projects or activities," she said in a message.

Prof. Gonzales earned her bachelor's degree in Commerce with a major in Economics from the University of Santo Tomas, and her master's degree in Business Administration from TSU in 2012. She is now pursuing a Doctor of Business Administration degree at TSU.



opaitsu@gmail.com
opai@tsu.edu.ph



+63 45 606-8123



@opaitsu


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- 2.) Be a premier research institution by enhancing research undertakings in the fields of technology and sciences and strengthening collaboration with local and international institutions.
- 3.) Be a champion in community development by strengthening partnership with public and private organizations and individuals

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