

# USEP E-Newsletter

Volume XV | January - March 2021 Issue



## USEP's budget reaches P1.1B

The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) extends its deepest gratitude to Senators Sonny Angara, Pia Cayetano, and Joel Villanueva for supporting the University's School of Medicine by pushing for the budget of P121.352 M to increase its carrying capacity under the 2021 General Appropriations Act. The said funding is crucial to the School of Medicine as it expects more students to enroll in the coming school year. (see page 9)

### USEP commemorates 2021 National Arts Month



The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP), through the Office of Student Affairs and Services – Cultural Affairs Unit (OSAS-CAU), conducted "Ka-urallan: Shaping Arts, Binding People", a month-long series of activities in celebration of the 2021 National Arts Month.

Ka-Urallan, an Obo-Bagobo term that means "majority" or "common good," fittingly depicts Unity — one of the Core Values of the University.

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### USEP GAD celebrates 2021 Women's Month



The University of Southeastern Philippines, through its Gender and Development Office (GAD), celebrated the 2021 National Women's Month with the theme "Juana Laban sa Pandemya: Kayal!" through a series of activities for the whole month of March 2021.

The celebration of National Women's Month has been done annually to pay tribute to the extraordinary roles of women in society. The celebration also

(see page 4)

### USEP tops February 2021 Geologist Licensure Exam



The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) topped the February 2021 Geologist Licensure Examination Performing School with a 100% passing rate.

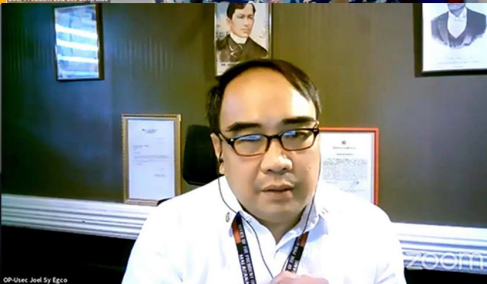
The Geologist Licensure Examination is conducted once a year for the development of competent, productive and multi-skilled geologists with excellent standard of professional practice.

(see page 10)





# USEP conducts Campus Peace and Development Forum



The University Office of Student Affairs and Services (OSAS), through its Student Discipline Unit, conducted the Campus Peace and Development Forum last February 5, 2021, via Zoom platform and Facebook live.

The purpose of the forum was to promote a harmonious and consensus society in the means of its service.

Alongside its stakeholders, the University partnered with Tactical Operations Wing Eastern Mindanao and Philippine Air Force Civil-Military Operations Group in the conduct of peace and development program activities, in support of the government.

Dr. Bonifacio G. Gabales, Jr., Vice President for Academic Affairs, expressed that the institution was surprised that USEP was among the tagged potential targets for recruitment or indirect recruitment by organizations whose intentions are not in consonance with the university and the government. After denouncing such intentions, Dr. Gabales stressed that the administration will support whatever initiatives offered for the welfare of the university.

Dr. Lourdes C. Generalao, University President, expressed her dismay after USEP was included as one of the Universities targeted for radicalization and recruitment of students to join the communist group. "Being targeted for radicalization and recruitment of students to join the communist group is an insult to the efforts made by the University Board of Regents, the Administration, and the faculty members," the President stressed. She reminded the students of the University that education is their best shot in uplifting themselves and their respective families. "Take care of your 'dreams and aspirations,'" she added.

Another motivational message was delivered by Col. Jeffrey M. Vilela, Wing Commander of Tactical Operations Eastern Mindanao. Col. Vilela highlighted that this event is significant in helping the government resolve issues and concerns and to give way to the opinions of our Filipino youth. He added that the duty of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) is to defend the nation and its democratic way of life by protecting the people against communist opportunists. "If the University is accomplishing things within the legal bounds, there is nothing to fear from the law enforcement agencies," he noted.

During her talk, Undersecretary for Presidential Communications Operations Office USec. Lorraine Marie T. Badoy expressed her appreciation to the University President for ensuring that students of the University are guided, just like a mother to her child. She also added that a lot of students have already lost their lives by associating themselves with the CPP-NPA-NDF. Usec. Badoy reminded the students to be very smart and discerning.

To further discuss red-tagging, Undersecretary Joel Sy Egco, Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PTFoMS) and Executive Director Presidential Undersecretary, stressed that Red-tagging is used by CPP-NPA-NDF to silence the government and those who tell the truth about them. Usec. Egco shared the history of the establishment of the CPP-NPA-NDF and highlighted the efforts of the government to achieve peace and development. He noted that there is a thin line between activism and terrorism encouraging the students to be smart and vigilant.

## KTTD qualifies for gold cluster category under ITSO 2.0 Program

The Knowledge and Technology Transfer Division (KTTD) qualified for the Gold Cluster category of the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL) Cluster Scheme of Innovation and Technology Support Office (ITSO) 2.0 Program last February 24, 2021.

The Gold Cluster category is only awarded to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) that reach at least six invention patent applications in a year.

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the University, through the KTTD, was among the three Universities in the Philippines that were able to draft and file seven invention patents in 2020.

The ITSOs are universities and institution-partners of IPOPHL, a government agency mandated to administer and implement State policies on intellectual property (IP) to strengthen the protection of IP rights in the country, that have been equipped with in-house patent libraries.





## Project iProseso snatches first place during 2020



The University of Southeastern Philippines' Project iProseso Team was hailed as 1st runner-up during the 2020 Enactus-Unilever National Topic Competition held last March 27, 2021, via Facebook Live.

Enactus Philippines is the largest experiential learning platform developing NextGen Leaders with a head for business and a heart for the world. Sponsored by Unilever North America and supported by Unilever Philippines, this year's topic competition focused on presenting livelihood programs that would address issues relevant to COVID-19.

Project iProseso aims to implement and validate the iProseso system to its medical aid claimants and its immediate impact. With this project,

medical and cash assistance transactions will be much faster, ensuring that it can cater to selected beneficiary needs. The goal of iProseso is not only to reach the market but also to improve accessibility, particularly for PWDs and senior citizens.

The team includes Ms. Pearl Echanes, BS Entrepreneurship; Mr. Lemuel Blaya, BS Electronics Engineering; and Mr. Kyle Quidayan, BS Electronics Engineering mentored by Engr. Franch Maverick Lorilla, TBI Manager of the USEP AgiLab; Dr. Karl Campos, Doctor of Business Administration Program Head of USEP; and Engr. Rapha Perez, Associate Professor of Ateneo de Davao University.

USEP, along with four other Universities in the Philippines namely; Holy Trinity College of General Santos; Lyceum of the Philippines University-Batangas; Mindanao State University-Main Campus; and the University of Luzon, were selected as the top five outstanding programs that competed during the final round.

## USEP joins Project FORTH TTT3



USEP participated in the Online Transnational Training of Trainers 3 (TTT3) of Project FORTH last March 19-22, 2021 via the Blackboard Collaborate platform.

The four-day activity was participated by five Universities in the Philippines (CEU, PUP, La Salle Bacolod, WVSU, and USEP) involved in the Erasmus Mundus project for the formation of teachers in challenged areas. Also present during the activity were the European partners and representatives from Education for an Interdependent World (EDIW).

Project FORTH is now in its fourth year of implementation and is all set for offering a new program for Teacher Education, particularly Masters in Education, alongside relevant research relating to training for teaching in challenged areas.

The USEP team included Dr. Adora P. Zerrudo, Dr. Bonifacio G. Gabales, Jr., Dr. Reynaldo M. Nogodula, Dr. Jose G. Tan, Jr., Dr. Jennifer M. Arbiol, Ms. Marivic N. Neri, and Ms. Richel F. Hernandez, with the DepEd Representatives Mr. Jeffren Miguel, Mr. James Lee, and Ms. Nancy Ramos from identified challenged areas.



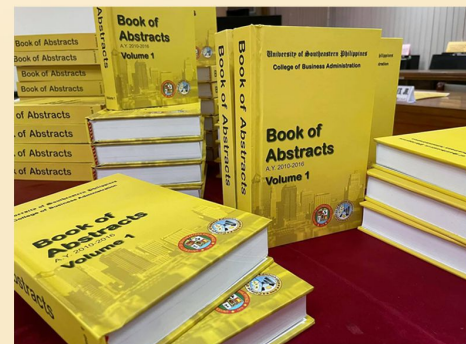
## CBA launches Book of Abstracts

The College of Business Administration, in partnership with the Mindanao Center for Policy Studies (MCPS) Office, launched its Book of Abstracts last February 24, 2021. The launch was attended by the University President, VP for Research, Development and Extension, VP for Academic Affairs, CBA faculty, staff, and guests.

The Book of Abstracts contains 440 abstracts of theses and dissertations of CBA Graduate Students for Academic Years 2010-2016. It is the second publication under Assoc. Prof. Gladys Florangel I. Ortiz's term as MCPS Directress. The first publication was "Disaster Preparedness and Climate Change: The Indigenous Knowledge of Selected IP Groups in the Davao Region".

The Book of Abstracts Team was composed of Assoc. Prof. Gladys Florangel I. Ortiz, MCPS Director; Dr. Enrico C. Yee, Jr., 2017 CBA Research Head; Dr. Roby V. Pagong, Present CBA Research Head; Ms. Ingrid Y. Gallogo, MCPS Staff; Mr. John Rey Ferraren, Former CBA Staff; Ms. Ellen L. Dilute, CBA Librarian; and Ms. Milabelle P. Baranda, CBA Asst. Librarian.

The Book of Abstracts is available for viewing at the CBA Resource Center or the MCPS Office.





serves as an avenue to address issues that women continue to face in the aspect of women's empowerment.

The celebration started with an opening program last March 8, 2021, via the Zoom platform and Facebook live. Dr. Maricar R. Casquejo, Director of CHED Regional Office XI, graced the opening ceremony as the guest speaker. Dr. Casquejo recognized USEP as one of the educational institutions in the Philippines that are filled with women who are empowered, insightful and purposeful.

On March 11, 2021, USEP's official theme song for this year's NWMC was titled "Babae Ako", which was produced by Mr. Alshamir Bryan B. Aripudin and Liza C. Asombrado and interpreted by Abigail D. Balili, Apple Jean Cabatuan, and Elona Jane W. Ricafort, was launched.

The following week, March 20, 2021, the "Women in E-Sports: Mobile Legends Bang Bang All-Female Tournament", which was participated by students, alumni, faculty members, and non-teaching staff of the University, took place. Team Jabeledelebere took home 2,350 diamonds and was announced as champion during the first All-female Mobile Legends Tournament.

On March 25, 2021, the forum on Women in Sports with the theme "Making Leaders Through

Transformative Leadership in Sports Amidst the Pandemic" preceded. The activity is in partnership with the OSAS-Sports Unit. Student-athletes, PASUC XI members, coaches, and sports leaders in Mindanao attended the forum.

On the following day, March 26, 2021, the Women's Month Culmination Day followed where a series of activities were conducted including Digital Poster-Making Contest and Singing Contest. A Virtual Exhibit on Visual Arts Featuring Women at the Pandemic was also conducted in partnership with Obrero Campus Student Council and OSAS-Cultural Affairs Unit.

The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Gender Studies Virtual Symposium: Bangsamoro Feminism and Feminism and Gender Performativity was conducted on March 29, 2021, via Zoom and Facebook Live. Ms. Manal J. Sugadol, Information Officer II MPOS-BARMM, and Ms. Febbie Faith S. Ramos, Faculty at St. Mary's College of Tagum, served as guest speakers of the activity.

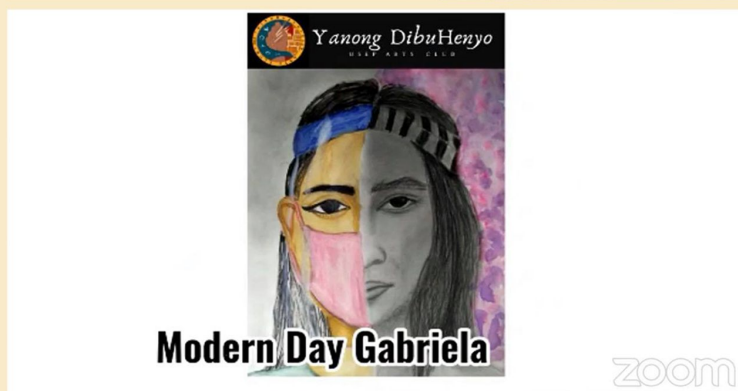
On March 31, 2021, the University conducted the "USEP Cares for Every Juana" webinar in partnership with the HRMD and NTSA via Zoom and Facebook Live. The activity, which was attended by Vice Presidents

Directors/Heads, faculty members, and staff of the University, was graced by Mr. Jeff Y. Fuentes, Population Division Head of the City Health Office, and Dr. Marjorie D. Culas, Asst. CHO/Member of the Davao City COVID-19 Task Force, as resource speakers.

The USEP external campuses, Tagum-Mabini Campus and Mintal Campus, also celebrated the NWMC 2021 through webinars and fora related to the challenges and victories of women amidst the current pandemic dubbed as "Kalusugan ni Juana sa Gitna ng Pandemya" and "M.A.L.I.P.A.Y.O.N. Day", respectively.

The USEP JUANAs Recognition Program held last March 31, 2021, closed the month-long celebration by giving recognition to all women leaders of the University who have displayed resilience and great strength, specifically in the pandemic response.

Gender mainstreaming efforts in the University have since been successful. The University, through the Gender and Development Office, will continue to exert efforts in making change work within the institution.





## USEP receives FOI Compliance Certificate

The University once again received a certificate of compliance, as validated by the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO), for being fully compliant with the enhanced Freedom of Information (FOI). The certificate was virtually presented by PCOO Secretary Martin Andanan.

The Freedom of Information (FOI) Program is the Government's response to the call for transparency and full public disclosure of information. It is a government mechanism, allowing Filipino citizens to request any information about government transactions and operations, provided that it shall not put into jeopardy – privacy and matters of national security.

2020 FOI compliance is one of the criteria for the grant of the Performance-Based Bonus (PBB) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020.

Facilitated by the Office of the Secretary of the University and University Records Office (OSU-URO), USEP is recognized as FOI compliant since its program implementation in 2017.

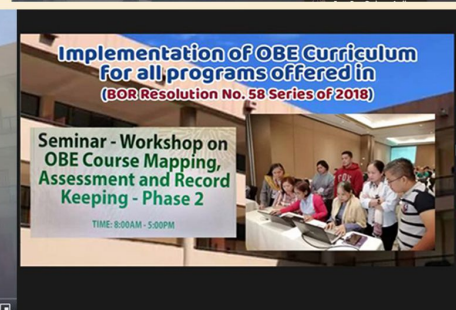
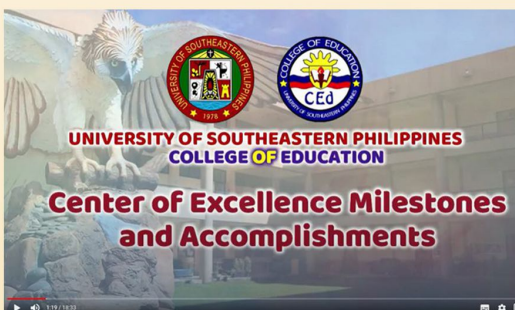
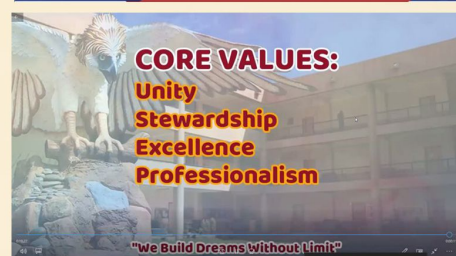
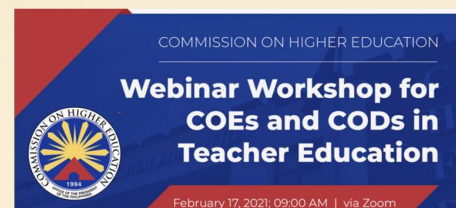


## USEP CEed shares milestones during the COEs and CODs Webinar-Workshop in

The College of Education (CEd) showcased its academic milestones during the Webinar-Workshop in Teacher Education entitled "Pandayan sa Kahusayan: Centers of Excellence (COEs) and Centers of Development (CODs) Moving Forward Towards the New Normal" last February 17, 2021, via Zoom.

The activity, which was attended by more than 600 participants from various TEIs in the country, was facilitated and organized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Office of the Oversight Commissioner for Teacher Education through the Office of Programs and Standards Development (OPSD) and the Technical Panel for Teacher Education. The activity provided perspectives on how the roles of COEs and CODs evolved given the impact of the pandemic. It tackled issues as well as identified the contributions of the COEs and CODs in reconfiguring Philippine Education. The participants were also informed about the current guidelines and initiatives of COEs and CODs.

CEd was among the six Teacher Education Institution (TEI) chosen to present its milestones for its commendatory performance in the area of instruction, research, extension, and quality assurance. These parameters are the existing criteria for designating COEs and CODs in Teacher Education across Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. The presentation included narratives of the growth of COEs for the period of 2016 up to the present.



## OSAS launches Virtual Wellness and Sports Program

The University, through its Office of Student Affairs and Services-Sports Unit, launched the Virtual Wellness and Sports Program last March 5, 2021, through Facebook Live.

The virtual program includes the following activities: Virtual Walk/Jog/Run for 20km and 40km; Virtual Biking for 75km and 100km; and Online Chess Tournament for men and women.

Dr. Jose Alther M. Rivera, Office of

Student Affairs and Services Director, stressed that the program is very timely given that people spend more time doing online work and having lost the time to exercise and work out. He also highlighted how physical activity is important because it has significant benefits to the heart, mind, and body. Hence, the event.

During his message, Dr. Bonifacio G. Gabales, Jr., Vice President for Academic Affairs, reminded everyone

of the importance of prioritizing health in order to have higher productivity.

Ms. Jabel Mariz Calimbo, University Student-Athletes' Organization (USAO) President, presented the general mechanics and guidelines reminding all participants to follow current health protocols. Afterwards, Mr. Meill Frolidan Balucan Icbay, Red Icbay, Red Cross 143 Volunteer, and Mr. Rolando Villotes, DRRM Volunteer, discussed the safety guidelines for running/walking and safety guidelines for biking, respectively.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Rey E. Ocenar, University Student-Athletes' Organization (USAO) Adviser reminded everyone to love oneself enough to live a healthy lifestyle. "Wellness is not a goal, it's a way of living," he added.





## Research Division holds a review of research and extension proposals

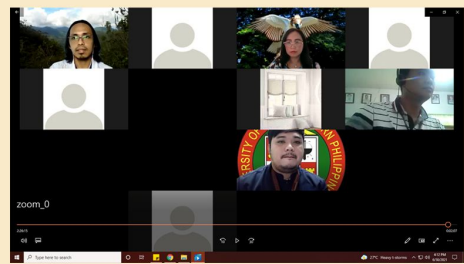
The University Research Division conducted a Special Review and Evaluation of Research and Extension Proposals last January 5, 2021, via the Zoom.

The activity aimed to evaluate research and extension proposals as well as identify research and extension papers qualified for possible funding in 2021. It also aimed to identify research papers to be endorsed for external funding.

There were three clusters during the in-house proposal, namely: Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources; Education, Arts and Social Sciences; and Engineering and Technology.

Dr. Vicente B. Calag, Professor at the University of the Philippines Mindanao, and Engr. Jonathan Victolero, Senior Research Specialist at the Department of Science and Technology were the external experts for the Engineering and Technology Cluster. Dr. Marilyn Madrazo, Research Division Chief of the Department of Education XI, and Dr. Marleonie Bauyt, Professor at Ateneo de Davao University, were present as external experts for the Education, Arts and Social Sciences Cluster. For the Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Cluster, Dr. Liberty H. Canja, Department Manager of the Philippines Coconut Authority, and Mr. Emma Ruth V. Bayogan, Research Director of the University of the Philippines Mindanao, were the external experts.

Subsequently, out of all 26 proposals presented during the activity, 17 research proposals were approved under the Small Grants program of the University and 5 research proposals are still for approval.



## PAD conducts orientation on social media pages administration

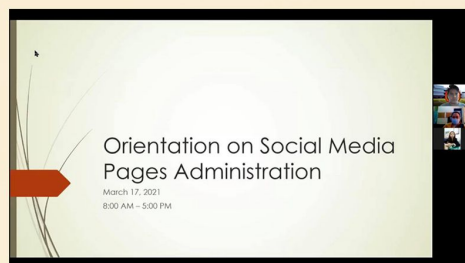
The University, through the Public Affairs Division (PAD), conducted an orientation on social media page administration as part of its initiative in establishing visual branding of the University. The orientation was conducted in two sessions (9:00 AM-12:NN for the University Offices/Divisions/Units and 1:30PM-4:00PM for Students Councils/Organizations and respective advisers) last March 17, 2021, via Zoom Cloud Meetings.

Mr. John Mark P. Sual, University Public Information Officer, started the orientation proper by introducing the functions of PAD created through BOR Resolution No. 67A s. 2019, emphasizing the managing of the social media accounts of the University and ensuring the implementation of brand and visual identity guidelines. Mr. Sual also discussed the different guidelines and processes of posting any information, stressing that all are required to seek clearance from PAD regarding activities that will be conducted and publication materials that will be published through the official social media pages of the University. He also gave an update on the creation of a manual for the visual

branding and user agreement of the University Logo.

After the orientation proper, the question and answer portion followed where the attendees were able to clarify queries regarding the creation of Facebook pages for Departments, as well as posting of information and graphics guidelines in creating publication materials.

To end the orientation, Ms. Rioliza B. Molina, PAD Directress, expressed her gratitude to the attendees for actively participating and helping in maintaining the integrity of the University. "USEP is not a representation of one person...it is OUR University", she added.



## ULRC orients on ProQuest Central and eBrary

The University, through the University Learning Resource Center (ULRC), conducted a virtual orientation on ProQuest Central and Ebrary Academic Complete last March 18, 2021, via Facebook Live.

ProQuest Central is the most comprehensive, diverse, and relevant multidisciplinary research database available. It provides access to databases across all major subject areas. On the other hand, Academic Complete offers more ebooks for undergraduates in subject areas that might not always be purchased. It is a complete multi-disciplinary ebook subscription at an affordable price.

During her opening remarks, Ms. Maychelle M. Nugas, Director of Libraries, commended everyone for joining the activity. Dir. Nugas shared her hopes that the participants will be able to take away relevant information regarding ProQuest Central which can be useful to all faculty, researchers, and students of the University.

Dr. Bonifacio G. Gabales, Jr., Vice President for Academic Affairs, reiterated the importance of providing necessary support in a flexible learning

modality, hence, the conduct of the activity. Dr. Gabales highlighted that due to the constrictions brought by the pandemic, a wide array of digital resources such as ProQuest Central is very helpful.

During the orientation proper, Ms. Kuringi Malar, Proquest Customer Experience Training and Consulting Partner for Southeast Asian, discussed the ProQuest Efficient Search Strategies and tips on identifying a variety of contents through ProQuest. Ms. Malar also shared techniques on organizing, sharing and managing information acquired as she demonstrated the processes of using ProQuest Central.

Ms. Cindy C. Moldes, MSLIS Head of the College of Education Learning Resource Center, highlighted how the current pandemic has been a great challenge not only to librarians but also to library users as well. She also shared her aspirations with the productivity tool that was introduced wherein, library users may be able to utilize it more for instructional and research needs.

(see photos on page 10)



all areas including architecture, theater, dance, literature, music as well as visual arts.

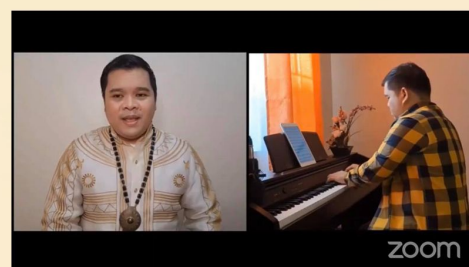
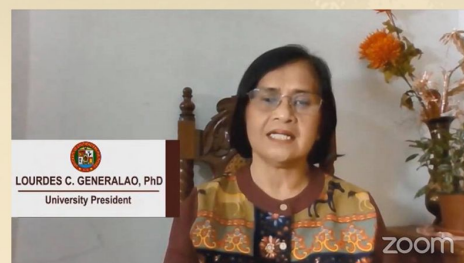
The celebration started with an opening ceremony last February 5, 2021 via Facebook Live led by the PAMULAAN Center for Indigenous People's Education students from USeP Mintal Campus. Dr. Aldrin A. Darilag, CHED Commissioner and Chairperson of the USeP Board of Regents, graced the activity as Resource Speaker. Commissioner Darilag commended the University for its efforts in providing an avenue for artists to harness their creative energies in uplifting the nation's spirit, especially during the current health crisis. "Continue to be the home of champions for the culture and the arts in Davao region", Commissioner Darilag concluded.

The following week, February 14, 2021, the "Sonata sa Kasing-kasing: A Love Concert" was conducted. The activity showcased different performances from the USeP community as well as different State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and other partnered institutions all over the Philippines.

The "Indigay sa Musika", a songwriting competition, succeeded on February 21, 2021. The activity allowed the students of the University to enhance and share their skills and talents in songwriting as well as inspire the youth through music. During the activity, the entries of the top 10 finalists were presented to the public.


The closing ceremony of the "Ka-urallan: Shaping Arts, Binding People" was held last February 27, 2021. The USeP community showcased different performances through a concert, together with various partnered institutions and SUCs and private sectors all over the Philippines. The awarding ceremony also followed where the university artists, guest performers, and partner institutions as well as the winners of the Indigay sa Musika were announced.

Before the ceremony ended, the Kaurallan soundtrack titled "O Sining", composed by Asst. Prof. Alshamir Bryan B. Aripuddin, and Assoc. Prof. Liza C. Asombrado was launched to celebrate and honor the significant contributions of arts in general over the years.



**MONTHLY**  
**AGRICULTURE**

Home > CROPS



Fruit-bearing cacao trees are intercropped with rubber trees in Maragusan, Davao de Oro. (Photo courtesy of Ruel Kenneth Felices)

**TOWARDS BETTER PRODUCTION: UNDERSTANDING THE SOIL INTRICACIES OF CACAO IN DAVAO DE ORO**



Photo by Josh Summerfield on Unsplash

**LOW-COST, MORE YIELD: RICE-FISH FARMING BETTER FOR THE FIELD!**

## USeP Research Journal Articles: Featured in Agriculture Monthly Magazine

Three (3) USeP research journal articles were featured on the official website of the Agriculture Monthly from November 2020 to January 2021.

Agriculture Monthly is the most widely circulated monthly magazine of its kind in the Philippines and is also one of the longest-running magazines in the Philippines.

These are the following research journal articles featured on Agriculture Monthly:

*Physico-Chemical Characteristics of Soils under Cacao Production System in Davao de Oro, Philippines is a study conducted by Mr. Nelvin A. Villason and Mr. Dernie T. Olguera, faculty members of the College of Agriculture and Related Sciences (CARS) of the University. The study investigated the soil properties and nutrient status of eight cacao farms in Davao de Oro.*

*A New Solar-Powered Rice-Fish Farming System for Yield Improvement was conducted by the faculty members of the College of Agriculture and Related Sciences (CARS) of the University, Engr. Ryan M. Abenoja, Dr. Roger C. Montepio, and Engr. Roland R. Bayron.*

The study is about solar-powered rice-fish farming, an innovation that introduces farmers to a two-way farming scheme which aims to produce rice while also raising fish via a solar-powered irrigation system with fewer input resources.

DigiMango: A Digital Postharvest Evaluation Tool on Mango Fruit is a research study on a mobile application that identifies the severity of anthracnose disease of carabao mango fruit. The DigiMango App is an offline mobile Android-based application that analyzes and produces rating results on the severity of anthracnose disease in Mango. Ms. Dhally A. Ilisan, Mr. Louie G. Simbajon, Ms. Gia Lorraine C. Mata, and Dessa Grace L. Ybañez, of the Bachelor of Science in Information Technology (BSIT) and College of Teacher Education and Technology (CTET) of the University are the researchers of the study.

This milestone manifests the University's commitment to becoming a premiere research University in the Philippines and beyond.





## USEP champs GADTimpala 2021

The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) was awarded as champion during the 2021 Gender and Development (GAD) Summit of HEIs in the Davao Region last January 22, 2021, via the Zoom platform. The Commission on Higher Education Regional Office-XI executives were present as the awarding body of the activity.

The summit also served as an awarding ceremony of outstanding practices in the implementation of CMO No.1 s, 2015, also known as "Establishing the Policies and Guidelines on Gender and Development in CHED and Higher Education Institutions".

The USEP's Gender and Development Office (GAD) was announced as the first placer in the following categories: Best Practice on the Implementation of GAD In the Tri-focal Functions, Best Practice on the Implementation of GAD in the Extension Function of HEIs, and Best

Practice on the Implementation of GAD in the Research Function of HEIs bagging the overall champion title for the 2021 GADTimpala.



## USEP alumni become certified Huawei ICT expert

Ms. Ara Marie Mejorada and Mr. Justin De Leon, alumni from the USEP College of Information and Computing (CIC), became Huawei Certified ICT Experts (HCIE) in Routing and Switching.

Recipients of the HCIE-Routing and Switching certification are selected based on the individual's knowledge and skills in constructing and managing complex large and medium-sized enterprise networks. This certification is also awarded to individuals who have demonstrated the ability to design enterprise networks independently, and are able to implement those designs using Huawei routing and switching devices and troubleshoot complex network faults.

This demonstrates the University's commitment to producing world-class and ASEAN competitive graduates and professionals.

## USEP, DA open AMIA MODEL FARM

The University, in partnership with the Department Agriculture Region 11, officially opened the AMIA Model Farm in Barangay Suawan last February 22, 2021, as one of the culminating activities for the ACT for AMIA Program.

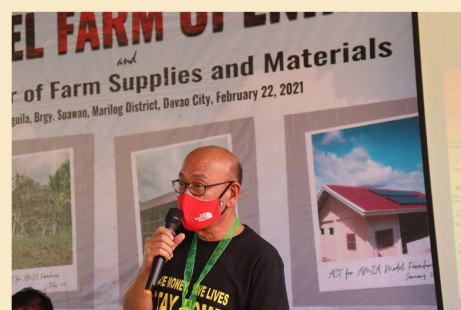
The Agri-fisheries Cooperatives on Technopreneurship for Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture Program, also known as the ACT of AMIA Program, is a partnership initiative between the University and the Department of Agriculture that aims to strengthen the competitiveness of agri-fisheries cooperatives in Region 11.

The activity gathered representatives from the Department of Agriculture – RFO 11 and City Agriculturist Office were invited as partner agencies for the project. In addition, representatives from the barangay local council of Suawan, Tamugan, and Magsaysay; members of the AGUILA Farmers Association; the University President and the Vice

President for RDE; representatives from the DOST-PAG-ASA; and Congressman Ungab attended the undertaking.

Also, with the collaborative efforts of the AGUILA Farmers Association, the launching of the AMIA Model Farm allowed farmers to plant crops such as string beans, tomato, bell pepper, cucumber, and sweet corn together with fruit-bearing trees such as durian, mangosteen, and lanzones.

This partnership exhibits the University's goals in becoming a proactive research-based economic empowering extension service.



ARA MARIE MEJORADA  
JUSTIN DE LEON



For passing the Huawei Certified ICT Experts (HCIE) in Routing and Switching.

## DigiHub-FabLab grabs 3rd place during Fabrication Festival

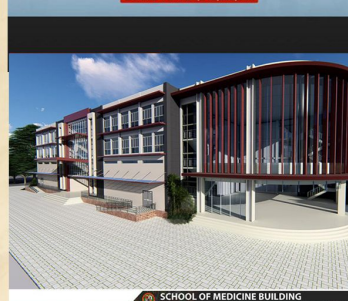
The USEP DigiHub-FabLab was announced as 3rd placer during the Fabrication Festival Competition under the CoVID-19 Response Innovation Category.

Designed by Engr. Jeremiah Bargo of the DOST-XI, the DigiHub-FabLab team submitted an innovation called Mirror Bracket for Virtual Classes last December 30, 2020. The Mirror Bracket for Virtual Classes supports the online learning strategy of both teachers and students for the new normal education.

The virtual awarding ceremony was held last January 7-9, 2021 during the 4th Fabrication Festival or FabFest 4 with the theme "Fabricating the New Normal".



INITIAL OPERATING COST OF SUCs WITH ONGOING APPLICATION			
HEI	College/University	Department/Office	Amount (P=)
SUCs	Ateneo de Manila University	Office of the President	1,000,000
	De La Salle University	Office of the President	1,000,000
	Far Eastern University	Office of the President	1,000,000
	Mapua University	Office of the President	1,000,000
	Philippine State College of Education	Office of the President	1,000,000
	San Bede College	Office of the President	1,000,000
	St. Louis College	Office of the President	1,000,000
	University of the Philippines	Office of the President	1,000,000
	University of Santo Tomas	Office of the President	1,000,000
	Westminster College	Office of the President	1,000,000
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	University of the Philippines	Office of the President	1,000,000
	University of Santo Tomas	Office of the President	1,000,000
	Westminster College	Office of the President	1,000,000
TOTAL BUDGET REQUIREMENT			1,045,323,906
GRAND TOTAL			1,045,323,906



It is a wonderful beginning indeed!

The Administration of the University of Southeastern Philippines is pleased to share the information that for this year, per the FY 2021 General Appropriations Act (GAA), the University is afforded a total budget of P1.1 Billion or P1,142,499,000.00 to be exact. This budget shall cover the year's expenses for Personnel Services, Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE), and Capital Outlay.

Included in the locally-funded projects for this year are the following:

#### For Obrero Campus:

- P90 million for the (continued) Construction of Admin Building
- P50 million for the (continued) Construction of 7-Storey Multi-Media Learning Resource Center
- P30 million for the Construction of SAEc Building
- P25 million for the Construction of Technology and Business Incubator
- P15 million for the Completion of IT Building
- P7.32 million for the Establishment of Smart Facility in the Newly Completed IT Building

#### For Tagum-Mabini Campus:

- P104 million for the Construction of Academic Building, Tagum Unit (Phase 1 of 3)
- P90 million for the Construction of School of Medicine Building, Tagum Unit
- P121.4 million for the increase in carrying capacity of the School of Medicine
- P9.7 million for the procurement of books and equipment for the School of Medicine

#### For Mintal Campus:

- P652 thousand for Turnstile with ID System

#### Uni-wide Projects:

- P26.3 million for the Conduct of Various Research Programs
- P5.2 million for OneUseP, oneDATA: Turning Data into Information with Data Warehousing
- P1 million for the Conduct of Extension Programs
- P500 thousand for the Conduct of Activities for Sports and Culture Development
- P500 thousand for ICT Connection and Other Equipment

The USeP President, Dr. Lourdes C. Generalao, expressed her utmost thanks to the members of the USeP community who worked tirelessly in

the process of the continuous improvement and development of the University. The President and the entire Administration sincerely thank the University's active partners – the Department of Budget and Management, the Commission on Higher Education, the Regional Development Council XI, and the lawmakers for the unwavering support and guidance, and continued trust and confidence in USeP.

The Administration also expresses its gratitude to Senators Joel Villanueva, Sonny Angara, and Pia Cayetano for pushing forward the allocation of an additional budget amounting to P121.4M for the opening of USeP School of Medicine. Also, the efforts of Sen. Villanueva have resulted in the funding of P500 thousand for ICT Connection and Other Equipment and another P500 thousand for Cultural, Sports, and Other Activities.

The entire USeP community is overwhelmed by the abundance of blessings that have been showered upon the University.

QOMPETE: Intercollegiate Technopreneurs Challenge

QBO GIST VENTUREWELL

# AGRERO

University of Southeastern Philippines

A project focusing on increasing engagement and participation of youth in agricultural initiatives through skills training and workshops.

## UseP's Agrero advances as Top 10 finalist during QOMPETE

The USeP's "Agrero" made it as one of the top 10 finalists during "QOMPETE: Intercollegiate Technopreneurs Challenge" last February 15, 2021.

The competition, which was participated by different HEIs nationwide, was organized by QBO Innovation Hub, a platform that supports Filipino startups to collaborate, develop talent and grow.

Agrero is a start-up project focused on engaging the youth to be part of agricultural initiatives through actual skills training and workshops.

The Agrero team is composed of BS in Entrepreneurship students of the University and is also a current incubatee of AGILab. Agrero was presented during the DemoDay last March 25, 2021. Possible support in terms of funding will be given by QBO Innovation Hub.



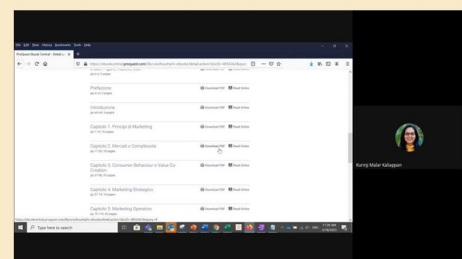
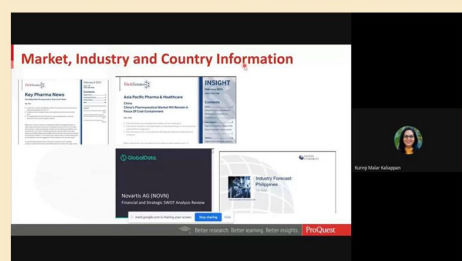


examination which was conducted last February 16-18, 2021 at the Holy Trinity Academy, Sampaloc, Manila.

One of the takers from USeP, Ms. Shaina Jane Figuro Hugo of the USeP College of Engineering, placed fifth with a passing rate of 80.90%.

This achievement is a manifestation of the University's commitment to achieving its mission and goals to produce world-class graduates and ASEAN competitive graduates and professionals.

(photos from ULRC orients on ProQuest...)



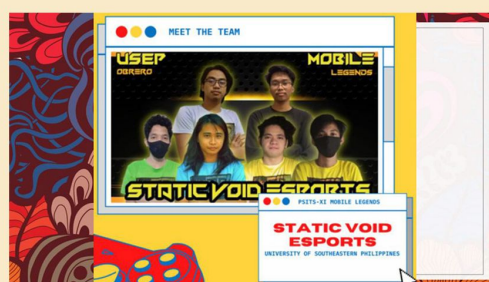
## USeP rules Philippine Society of Information Technology Students (PSITS) Region XI Week 2021

Students from the University of Southeastern Philippines – College of Information and Computing (USeP-CIC) emerged victorious after winning in the individual and group events in the recently concluded Philippine Society of Information Technology Students (PSITS) Region XI Week 2021 last March 22-27, 2021 with 14 participating schools in the Davao Region. The competition was opened to all colleges and universities of Region XI and was participated in by 14 schools.

This was organized by the PSITS Region XI in coordination with the Philippine Society of Information Technology Educators to give an avenue for students to showcase their skills and intelligence in different events despite this new normal. Under the individual and group categories, students competed in various competitions such as Quiz Bowl, Spoken Poetry, Hero-Making, and Meme-Making for the individual category, and Mobile Legends and Dota Tournament for the group category. CIC students were able to show their full potential as they were declared winners in several events against competing schools and universities in different events.

Leo Llanto, Shekinah Jane Valenzona, and Ivan Rhay Jeferson Sapar clinched their way to the top and hailed as champions in the Music Composition competition. Furthermore, Fritzie B. Lor bagged the championship prize, and Novem Terante bagged the 1st prize in the Hero-Making competition. Vanne Moelle V. Valdez and Lotis May S. Prado proved their attentiveness and confidence to compete with other schools as they landed 1st and 2nd placers in the IT-Quiz Bee competition. Francis Gabriel Salintes stood out against other schools and was declared 1st placer for the Spoken Poetry competition. Also, the team of Jim Bryan Agbay, Kurt Russel Arabejo, Joshua Chris Duran, Aldren Joy Jagunos, Eric James Palban, and Phil Bustaliño Jr. won 4th place in the Mobile Legends e-Sports event.

The PSITS Region XI academic and sports event is conducted annually to give a platform for IT, CS, and BLIS students to unleash their full potential, creativity, and skills in their respective academic fields, especially during this COVID-19 pandemic. The CIC faculty and staff were very proud of their CIC







## CIC conducts AUN-QA webinar anew

The College of Information and Computing (CIC) hosted the ASEAN University Network-Quality Assurance (AUN-QA) webinar last February 19, 2021, from 8:30 AM until 12:00 NN via the Zoom platform.

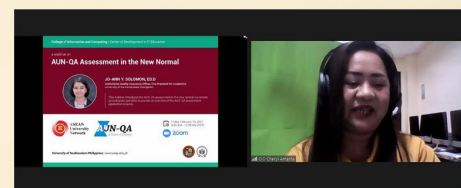
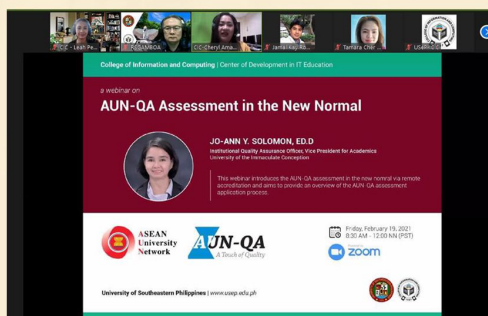
The webinar was participated in by CIC faculty and staff and other guests from the first webinar.

It can be recalled that the college conducted the same webinar last December 2020 which aimed to strengthen the participants' knowledge in program-level assessment and provide an initial assessment of the program's readiness for international accreditation. The follow-up webinar focused on the program level assessment through remote accreditation.

Dr. Jo-Ann Y. Solomon, the Institutional Quality Assurance Officer and Vice President for Academics of the University of the Immaculate Conception (UIC) graced the activity as the resource speaker. Dr. Solomon shared their university experiences from 2018 until the assessment in 2020. She also delivered essential insights in the preparations and submission of requirements for AUN-QA.

The Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BSCS) and Bachelor of Science in Information Technology (BSIT) programs under CIC were among the programs of the University which aim to submit application requirements to the AUN-QA for program-level assessment by the end of 2021.

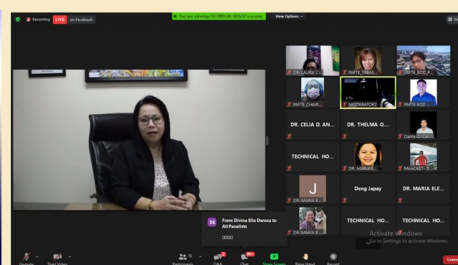
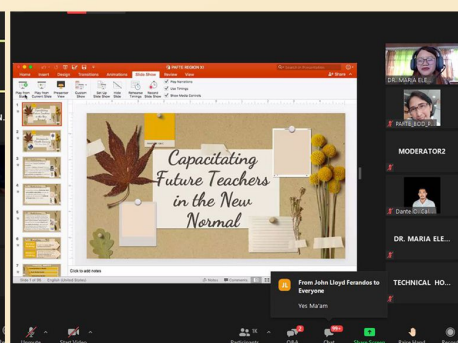
The AUN-QA, being the ASEAN quality assurance network in higher education, aims to promote quality assurance, raise the quality of higher education academic standards, and collaborate with regional and international bodies to benefit the ASEAN community. With this, CIC believes that AUN-QA is the best path for its programs to be internationally recognized and contribute to USEP's vision of becoming a premier research university in the ASEAN.



## USEP CEd student delegates attend the PAFTE Rgnl Teacher Education Students Congress 2021

The student delegates from the College of Education (CEd) participated in the Regional Teacher Education Students Congress 2021 with the theme "Capacitating Future Teachers in the New Normal" last March 19, 2021, via Zoom. The activity, which was attended by more than 1400 student representatives from various Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs) in the region, was facilitated and organized by the Philippine Association for Teachers and Educators (PAFTE XI).

The activity provided students with various coping mechanisms and learning approaches in the new normal setup. Student delegates were as follows: Remy S. Taporoc, April Liz G. Vete, Abigail D. Balili, Kirstelle T. Sarabillo, Ace D. Ayade, Lloyd T. Garcia, Gabe O. Tancontian



II, John Vincent N. Tulayan, Paul Kenneth A. Penuela, Keziah Mae C. Rufin, Robert Jhon N. Pegte, Mereyl T. Del Puerto, Kyle Patrick M. Carrera, Lordjeon Bhanz C. Cerbo, and John Dave M. Cabisay.

Speakers were Dr. Felina P. Espique from St. Louis University, Baguio City, and Ms. Ruchela P. Gamao from the University of Southeastern Philippines, Davao City.





# ALUMNI CORNER



## CERTIFIED HUAWEI EXPERT

**ARA MARIE MEJORADA**

Bachelor of Science in Information Technology  
Batch 2019  
University of Southeastern Philippines



## CERTIFIED HUAWEI EXPERT

**JUSTIN DE LEON**

Bachelor of Science in Information Technology  
Batch 2019  
University of Southeastern Philippines



## TOP 7 PNPA CLASS OF 2021

**P/CDT GERALD ARQUILLANO LOPEZ**

Bachelor of Science in Education - SPED  
Batch 2019  
University of Southeastern Philippines



## Public Affairs Division

USEP Obrero Campus, Davao City, 8000 Philippines

### General Note:

*The USEP Newsletter Volume XV documents significant virtual activities of the University for the first quarter of 2021.*

*With a number of virtual activities from January to March of 2021, this newsletter exhibits the University's continued efforts in providing quality education to its stakeholders under the new normal.*

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PAD Director

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