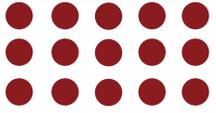




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CAFA grad ranks 6th in Architecture boards



**Congratulations to our new
TSUian Architects!**

**JANUARY 2022
ARCHITECT LICENSURE EXAMINATION (ALE)**

**TOP 6
RENDELL KLIATCHKO SOTTO • 81.60%**

The TSU community is very proud of you!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE



TSU receives quality management proficiency recognition in PQA 24th cycle

[PAGE 2]



FTRC, COS assist Chicharon Camiling producers through DOST3-funded project

[PAGE 4]



TSU sends off 116 graduates for mid-academic year commencement exercises

[PAGE 6]

A Tarlac State University Architecture graduate who failed his thesis defense in college (and took it as a challenge to strive harder) ranked 6th in the January 2022 Architect Licensure Examination with an average of 81.60 percent.

Rendell K. Sotto, born to parents in the public education sector, is the first architect in their family.

Sotto graduated from TSU in 2018 and finished his secondary education at the TSU Laboratory School in 2013 where he became a chairman's lister.

During his bachelor's degree graduation, he was among the recipients of the loyalty award.

According to Sotto, he was inspired to pursue Architecture when he took a TLE drafting class in high school. He said he enjoyed sketching and drawing but hated Mathematics, so he chose Architecture over Engineering. But, to his surprise, he needed to deal with and study 12 Math-based subjects in BS Architecture.

He also said that he has

[Go to page 3](#)

TSU receives quality management proficiency recognition in PQA 24th cycle

Tarlac State University has received the "Recognition for Proficiency in Quality Management" in the 24th Philippine Quality Award (PQA) Assessment Cycle which was approved by the Office of the Philippine President last January 13, 2022.

Among state universities and colleges (SUCs) in Region III, TSU is the first to receive a PQA recognition - the highest level of

national recognition for exemplary organizational performance that aims to recognize the achievements of both public and private organizations for their efforts towards performance excellence.

The university was informed of its award in a letter communicated by the Department of Trade and Industry-Competitiveness Bureau addressed to

[Go to page 2](#)

TSU receives quality management proficiency recognition in PQA 24th cycle

■ Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan

Congratulations!

TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY

1st SUC in Central Luzon to receive

Recognition for Proficiency in Quality Management

PHILIPPINE QUALITY AWARD (PQA)

HIGHEST LEVEL OF NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR EXEMPLARY ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE



From page 1

TSU President Dr. Myrna Q. Mallari on January 19, 2022.

In a message, President Mallari thanked the Administrative Council, PQA committee members, and the TSU community for their contributions in the attainment of this recognition.

“On behalf of the Office of the University President and the offices of the vice presidents, we all thank you for your contributions to another milestone for TSU. God is so good to all of us and to TSU! Salute to all of you and convey our appreciation to everyone,” President Mallari said.

A virtual PQA conferment ceremony will be held on March 23, 2022 via the PQA official Facebook page.

Meanwhile, a limited face-to-face program is planned to be conducted on March 25, 2022 for the turnover of PQA trophy to TSU at the Bulwagang Kanlahi.

PQA Feedback Report

The PQA Feedback Report of TSU was received in an email communicated by DTI-Competitiveness Bureau Director IV Lilian G. Salonga on January 24, 2022. The feedback report contained

summaries of crosscutting themes/comments on TSU’s application together with detailed comments on the requirements of the PQA criteria.

“Since it shows your organization’s strengths as well as opportunities for improvement, we believe that you would find this useful and applicable in your continuing quest for operational improvement and organizational excellence,” the letter indicated.

According to the report, the following are the important strengths and outstanding practices of the university: 1) TSU’s academic programs undergo rigorous accreditation and SUC leveling processes and continuously pursue external certifications; 2) TSU contributes to and supports its key community through multiple programs focused on social and economic well-being; and 3) TSU supports personal learning and provides developmental opportunities for its workforce.

The university scored Band 3 in the consensus review of the written application for the PQA.

“The organization demonstrates an effective, systematic approach responsive to the basic requirements of the items, although there are still areas or work units in early

stages of deployment. Key processes are beginning to be systematically evaluated and improved,” noted in the report.

Moreover, among the categories, “Category 1: Leadership” garnered the highest score where it was noted that “an effective, systematic approach, responsive to the overall requirements of the item, is evident.” The results also reflected good organizational performance levels where the trends presented are beneficial and obtained comparative information are evident.

The other categories are Strategy (2); Citizens/Customers (3); Measurement, Analysis, and Knowledge Management (4); Human Resource (5); Operations (6); and Results (7).

TSU underwent the PQA online site visit last September 14-16, 2021 via Zoom.



CAFA grad ranks 6th in Architecture boards

■ Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



Congratulations to our new TSUian Architects!

JANUARY 2022 ARCHITECT LICENSURE EXAMINATION (ALE)

**FIRST TIME TAKERS • 58.33%
INSTITUTIONAL PASSING RATE • 51.02%
NATIONAL PASSING RATE • 62.39%**

From page 1

always dreamed of becoming a topnotcher, so he focused on his review. He established a study routine which starts at 8:00 in the morning with meal and prayer breaks in between. He is scheduled to sleep at 12:00 midnight.

“When it comes to Architecture, I am serious about it. I always aim to be the number 1, but there are always challenges that you need to face to become successful. I even failed my thesis defense back then, but I took it as a challenge to strive even more,” he said.

Even with the height of the pandemic, Sotto still managed to study although the pandemic gave him some difficulties emotionally and financially.

Sotto shared that he faced another challenge a week before the board exam in August 2021 when he became sick and depressed to the point that he skipped the exams. This prolonged his financial problems.

“Di naman po nila [parents] ako prine-pressure. ‘Nung nalaman nga po nila na ‘di ako magte-take ng August boards, sabi lang nila

magpahinga lang daw muna po ako at magpalakas dahil kagagaling sa sakit,” Sotto said.

He said he really needed to put up with the review hours and deal with the hardships. He frequently suffered from burnout and would rather sleep off his mental exhaustion and resume his review the next morning.

“I always pray when I am studying. I seek guidance from Him. My family is my inspiration. They did not give up on my financial struggles when I was studying,” Sotto added.

On his industry exposure, Sotto said he had a good experience with his versatile mentors, namely Ar. Roldan Garcia, Engr. Feliciano Garcia, and Engr. Carlo Garcia of RFC Builders and Trading, Inc. located in Tarlac City. He said his mentors are former students of his parents.

When asked about his preparations on the night before the examination, he just said he reviewed again since he cannot be complacent. He added that he will not be able to fall asleep if he does not study.

After the first day of the

board exam, Sotto was positive that he would become a topnotcher. However, he struggled on the second day with the design category of the exams. This led him to pray to God to surpass the hardships and pass the licensure exam.

“I am very grateful that I am a graduate of TSU CAFA [College of Architecture and Fine Arts]. Our faculty has been very supportive in our studying career. They are very approachable in times of need. The faculty is also a reason [for] my success, since they are the ones who built up my foundation in Architecture,” Sotto said in an interview

“My teacher in high school, Sir Larry Marcos, inspired me to be an architect since he is my teacher for TLE drafting. I wanted to be like him, teaching others [and] at the same time being an architect. My mentor, Ar. Roldan Garcia, is also an inspiration to me since after graduating, he is the one who supplemented my knowledge in Architecture and in practice,” he said

After oath-taking, Sotto plans to teach at TSU.

FTRC, COS assist Chicharon Camiling producers through DOST 3-funded project

■ Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan



Tarlac State University's Food Technology and Research Center (FTRC) and the College of Science (COS) research and extension representatives are working together to provide technical assistance and consultancy services to selected producers of Artisanal Chicharon in Camiling, Tarlac.

This research-based extension project has four objectives: 1) to standardize the process and packaging of Chicharon Camiling; 2) to characterize the product in terms of physical, chemical, microbiological, and sensory quality; 3) to identify potential science and technology intervention and provide recommendations to complement the artisanal method of production; and 4) to establish readily accessible laboratory services for the producers in Camiling.

Funded by the Department



of Science and Technology (DOST) Regional Office III Grants-In-Aid (GIA) Program, this project is conducted by TSU in partnership with the local government of Camiling and DOST-Provincial Science and Technology Center (PSTC) Tarlac. It commenced last July 2021 and will conclude in June 2022.

The DOST-GIA Program

annually calls for project proposals and provides grants for the implementation of programs/projects aimed to contribute to productivity improvement and quality of life of Filipinos.

According to FTRC Research



Continue to page 5

From page 4

and Development Unit Head Ms. Abigail F. Feliciano, there are ten Artisanal Chicharon producers in the project which have been endorsed by the Department of Trade and Industry-Tarlac.

Since the producers use shared facilities, Feliciano said their team does not need to visit all of them. Thus, they reduced the nine site visits to three, which is already sufficient to gather the needed data.

Despite the cooperation of everyone involved in the project, Feliciano admitted that there are struggles.

"Meron pong difficulty sa procurement ng equipment and materials. Medyo hirap pong makahanap ng mga suppliers. At tsaka po 'yung sa trainings – since COVID po, kinailangan pong ma-adjust nang ma-adjust. Kailangan po kasi face-to-



face iyong training and initial testing for fat analysis sa UPLB (University of the Philippines Los Baños)," she said.

However, the unit head remains hopeful that the alert levels between Tarlac and Laguna will be lowered soon, allowing the conduct of trainings.

Last year, the project orientation and forging of the Memorandum of

Agreement was conducted on July 27 with TSU, LGU Camiling, and the chicharon producers, in coordination with DOST-PSTC Tarlac.

Another project briefing was done specifically on the duties and responsibilities of stakeholders via Zoom last September 22, 2021.

EDITORIAL

When Tarlac State University garnered various quality assurance certifications like the AACUP Institutional Accreditation, Quality Management System, and CHED Institutional Sustainability Assessment, the TSU community may have wondered if there will still be other means to raise the bar of quality for the university.

The quest for quality seems never-ending. In 2021, TSU underwent more institutional assessments like the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, a higher level for AACUP Institutional Accreditation, and the Philippine Quality Award (PQA). Lo and behold, the university welcomed 2022 with a blessing – the results of the 2021 PQA 24th Assessment Cycle.

TSU's attainment of the Level 2 PQA or better known as "Recognition for Proficiency in Quality Management" did not come as a surprise because the online site visit

with corresponding interviews went smoothly. Indeed, the experience was nerve-wracking, but the systems and procedures are already in place which was an advantage for the university.

PQA is a big deal for quality management not just in the Philippines but also in the international arena. It is comparable to the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award (MBNQA) of the United States and those in Europe and Asia. The PQA is the highest level of national recognition for exemplary organizational performance that aims to recognize the achievements of both public and private organizations for their efforts towards performance excellence. This means TSU has passed both national and international standards of quality – a feat that the TSU community should be proud of.

Another source of pride for the TSU community is the fact that it is the only SUC (state universities and colleges) in Central Luzon which has

ATTAINING THE HIGHEST NATIONAL QUALITY ASSURANCE AWARD

received the PQA. Out of 114 SUCs in the Philippines, there are only seven with PQA, and TSU is one of them.

When the university jumped onto the challenge of undergoing the PQA, COVID-19 is still rampant, but it must be noted that there are no hindrances when it comes to ensuring quality for TSU. Regardless of the situation at hand, quality will find its way, especially with the hard work and cooperation of the employees and the guidance of the administration.

Attaining the highest national quality assurance award is not just a decoration added to TSU's name as it bears certain responsibilities in maintaining the quality it has been known for and eventually awarded with. Putting the PQA logo beside the TSU seal brands the university with a prestigious quality mark that must be lived up to in all its actions and transactions congruent to its vision of becoming a premier university in the Asia-Pacific.

TSU sends off 116 graduates for mid-academic year commencement exercises

■ Hershey D. Samia

Tarlac State University completed its virtual 33rd Commencement Exercises last January 28, 2022 with 116 mid-year graduates of academic year 2021-2022 which was streamed live through the Office of Public Affairs (OPA) Facebook page.

The highest number of graduates, totaling to 28, is from the College of Business and Accountancy, followed by the College of Engineering and Technology with 18 graduates, and the College of Arts and Social Sciences with 17 graduates.

Furthermore, the College of Computer Studies produced 10 graduates, and one graduate came from the College of Teacher Education.



Meanwhile, for the graduate programs, 24 graduates are from Master of Arts in Education, eight from Master of Public Administration, five from Doctor of Public Administration, three from Master in Business Administration, and one each from Master in Information Technology and Doctor of Business Administration.

The valedictory speech for this graduation was delivered by Ms. Catherine P. Pascual who obtained the degree Master of Arts in Education major in Educational Management.

The baccalaureate services was held the day before the graduation



proper at the Academic Building of the Lucinda Campus which was presided by Rev. Fr. Raymund Cruz.

In his homily, Fr. Cruz reminded the graduates to always speak and listen to the truth whether it is a feeling, opinion, or morals to avoid falsifying information.

He also highlighted three important things on how people can hear what God wants to convey. First is to constantly pray, and through praying one can be given

discernment. Second is to continue learning as life is a continuous effort of learning, because people can recognize the truth that is coming from the voice of Jesus. The third is to never stop loving from a decisive heart.

The online 33rd Commencement Exercises is still available for viewing under the videos tab of the OPA Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/opaitsu>.



President Mallari appoints new ARO Director

■ Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



Tarlac State University President Dr. Myrna Q. Mallari appointed Dr. Theda Flare G. Quilala as the Director of the Admission and Registration Office which took effect on January 1 until March 31, 2022 through Administrative Order No. 44, s. 2021 dated October 27, 2021.

Dr. Quilala was the ARO understudy director from November 1, 2021 until December 31, 2021.

She will perform the functions and responsibilities as stated in Book

I, Title III, Chapter 3, Article 52 of the TSU Code.

When asked about her plans for the office, she said that processes are targeted to become fully automated.

“As per planning, we already identified points to improve such as [the] online request system, queuing, computerization of old records, online verification, [and] envelope tracking. We must discuss the plans in coordination with the MISO [Management Information Systems Office]. But for the vision, we adhere to making our processes completely automated and online in the future, one step at a time,” Dr. Quilala said in an interview.

Upon assuming office in January 2021, Dr. Quilala said she was quite challenged as she dealt with concerns about enrollment, graduation, and orientation. She said that she must study the concerns and immediately decide on it because she did not anticipate how busy the ARO is.

“I will just work as per what I can contribute using the strength that I have – that is regarding automation,”

Dr. Quilala further said.

Dr. Quilala received her Bachelor of Science in Computer Science degree in 2000 where she was awarded as Most Outstanding Student under her scholarship with the Department of Science and Technology while also being a dean's lister.

She pursued her graduate studies at Systems Plus College Foundation with the degree Master in Information Technology (MIT) which she completed in 2006. She was an awardee for Best in Capstone Project.

For her doctoral degree, she was a CHED K-12 scholar. She finished Doctor in Information Technology at the Technological Institute of the Philippines in 2019.

Prior to her designation as ARO Director, Dr. Quilala initially served the administration as the chairperson of the Information Technology Department under the College of Computer Studies where she teaches ICT (Information and Communication Technology) subjects like programming and computer networks. She started her teaching career at TSU in 2003.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY LICENSED CRIMINOLOGISTS!

December 2021 Criminologist Licensure Examination (CLE)



34.19% NATIONAL PASSING RATE
59.18% INSTITUTIONAL PASSING RATE
63.64% FIRST TIME TAKERS

The TSU community is very proud of you!



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@opaitsu



+63 45 606-8123



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



TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY

Vision

Tarlac State University is envisioned to be a premier University in the Asia Pacific Region.

Mission

Tarlac State University commits to promote and sustain the offering of quality and relevant programs in higher and advanced education ensuring equitable access to education for people empowerment, professional development, and global competitiveness.

Towards this end, TSU shall:

- 1.) Provide high quality instruction through qualified, competent and adequately trained faculty members and support staff.
- 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

Quality, Environment, and Health and Safety (QEHS)

Tarlac State University is committed to improve continually for:

- Global competitiveness and excellence in the delivery of education, research, extension, training and consultancy services, hotel operation and administrative support services;
- safe and healthy working conditions to prevent injury and ill health of its employees, students, guests, visitors, suppliers and contractors;
- management of environmental aspects towards the prevention of pollution;
- compliant to regulatory and statutory requirements for the utmost satisfaction of its valued customers.