

URS Joins Project TRANSFORM

The launching of the Project *Transdisciplinary Approach for Resilience and Environmental Sustainability through Multi-stakeholder Engagement* otherwise known as Project TRANSFORM initiated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Rizal Provincial Government was held at the Ynares Events Center, Provincial Capitol Building Compound, Antipolo City on February 29.

The University of Rizal System (URS) joined the pledge of commitment as an academe partner of the DENR and the Rizal Province as they signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) along with the municipalities of Baras, Rodriguez, San Mateo, and Tanay.

The event was graced by the DENR secretary, Hon. Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga, the governor of Rizal Province, Hon. Nina Ricci Ynares, the mayors of Antipolo City and municipalities of Rizal, partners in the private and public sectors, and representatives of stakeholder groups.

The URS officials present were Dr. Nancy Pascual, president; Dr. Marites Rio, vice president for Research Development, Extension, and Production; Rennie Mae De Lemon, director, URS planning unit; Day Cabugawan, executive assistant; Esther Recla, Environmental Education & Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC) head; Cleofas Ramiro, EEBRC staff; and Michelle Garcia, EEBRC focal person of Rodriguez Campus.

This project launch aims to stand together and reaffirm support to pursue a continuing agenda of building a resilient, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable Province of Rizal. //

2000 Studes Receive AICS Aid from DSWD

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) conducted a payout to 2,000 University of Rizal System (URS) students as Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) beneficiaries, at URS Morong Campus on February 13.

The AICS is one of the social welfare programs offered by the DSWD that provides medical assistance, burial, transportation, education, food, or financial assistance for other support services or needs of a person or family. Two thousand students across all ten URS campuses benefited from this DSWD initiative through the efforts of the office of Senator Imee Marcos.

Here is the list of total recipients for each campus.

Campus	Beneficiaries
Angono	141
Antipolo City	228
Binangonan	294
Cainta	46
Cardona	35
Morong	631
Pililla	154
Rodriguez	172
Tanay	227
Taytay	72
TOTAL	2,000

The DSWD's Social Welfare and Development team is led by Shaira Hernadez, DSWD Social Welfare and Development team leader, while Prof. Roslyn Magat, Head of Scholarship and Financial Assistance, acts as the URS's focal person.

In the program, welcome remarks from Dr. Xenia Canale, Campus Director of URS Morong; and greetings from Dr. Nancy Pascual, URS President; Dr. Allan Conde, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Hon. Sidney Soriano, Mayor of Morong, Rizal; Victor Symon Badaguas, Rizal Provincial Coordinator of the Office of Senator Imee Marcos; and Hon. Nina Ricci Ynares, Governor of the Province of Rizal, were delivered. Hon. Reynaldo San Juan Jr., Vice Governor of the Province of Rizal, was also present to extend his support. The payroll process flow was discussed by Hernandez. The program continued with words of gratitude from selected AICS beneficiaries. ~ *MLA*



THE PRESIDENT'S POST

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URS President's Convocation Held

The University of Rizal System (URS) celebrated its President's Convocation at the Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez Tanghalang Sining (EARTS) on February 24.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Marvin Amoin, Vice President for Administration and Finance, expressed his gratitude to the faculty and staff for their continuous support and guidance, highlighting the milestones achieved by the University while looking to the future ahead.

During his message, Dr. Allan Conde, Vice President for Academic Affairs, emphasized the importance of teamwork and coming together.

Dr. Nancy Pascual, University President, thanked the three vice presidents, campus directors, the University Supreme Student Government, faculty and staff, and her family for their constant and unwavering support.

The recognition and in-person oath-taking of the 73 newly hired and promoted faculty and staff in the different available plantilla positions of the University followed.

The President's Report highlighted the journey and achievements of the University under the President's leadership, which set the tone for the academic year ahead, emphasizing the importance of academic excellence, diversity, and inclusivity through its 67M+ external grants; 100% AACCCUP accredited baccalaureate and graduate programs; high passing rate in board examinations in civil engineering, mechanical engineering, master electrician, and agriculture and biosystems engineering; licensure examinations topnotchers for professional teachers, electronics technician, and fisheries professional; ISO 9001:2015 certification for five years in a row; PRIME-HRM maturity level 2 by CSC; and a high ranking higher educational institutions according to EduRank.

Additionally, the President also stated the various achievements under the Academic Affairs division, such as the new academic programs



HIGHLIGHTS.
Dr. Nancy Pascual, URS President, reports her administration's achievement for the last four years.

developed, enrolment and graduation trend, accredited programs for the period 2020-2023, and the new academic policies and guidelines proposed and approved by the Board of Regents. Following are the Research Development, Extension, and Production division's accomplishments such as the revision of the research operations manual; University research agenda; extension operations manual; presentation of completed researches, research publications, and the total engagement in extension and research throughout the ten different campuses; holding of national and international research and extension conferences; registration and filing of intellectual properties; and the setting of University extension thrusts and priorities. Lastly, under the Administration and Finance division, the President emphasized the University's involvement in community outreach development, CHED Bayanihan project training conducted, infrastructure projects, grants and subsidies from other government agencies, and budget utilization rate, the construction of the University Health and Wellness Center, MODEL University Resilient and SMART Building, and the dormitory and

business centers in Antipolo City, Morong, and Tanay Campuses. The URS Development Goals, the plans from Year 1 to Year 4 under her leadership in terms of administration, faculty and staff, curricular programs, and students were also cited.

Meanwhile, the Introduction to Futures Thinking and Strategic Foresight followed with Dr. Jocelyn Galang, Director of the Information Unit, highlighting the dynamic approach to planning and decision-making, acknowledging the complexities and uncertainties of the world while actively seeking to navigate them proactively and strategically; thus, enables one to become more resilient, agile, and future-ready by integrating long-term thinking into one's strategic planning processes.

As the event closed, Dr. Marites Rio, Vice President for Research Development, Extension, and Production, concluded with an invitation for all members of the University to embrace the new chapter under the leadership of Dr. Pascual, thanking them for all their dedication and constant support as One URS.

~ *JFa*



2024 - 2026 POURS Officers Sworn In

The University of Rizal System (URS) President, Dr. Nancy Pascual, led the oath-taking ceremonies of the newly elected officers of the Personnel Organization of URS (POURS) for the 2024-2026 term. The ceremonies were held at the URS Boardroom, URS Morong Campus on February 14.

The new officers include Prof. Reymily Rose Sta. Ana, president; Dr. Reina Miranda, vice-president-internal; Dr. Jenius Dejarlo, vice president-external; Crechelle San Juan, and Rosette Sevilla, secretaries; Prof. Sheila De la Cruz, and Von Ramirez, treasurers; Prof. Danilo Esquibel, and John Lennon de Castro, public relations officers; Charlton Pepaño, business manager; and, Dr. Rosa Portillo, ex-officio.

During the oath-taking, Dr. Pascual emphasized the importance of integrity and working together as a team. The oath-taking ceremony was attended by faculty, staff, and guests, marking the start of a new term for POURS.

POURS is a merger of the Faculty Association of URS-Morong (FAURSM) and the URS-Morong Employees' Association (URSMEA). // EMBR

Tia Invents Mosquito Attractant from Plant Extract

Prof. Eugene Tia, Head of Food Analytical and Research Services Laboratory, URS, with the support of the URS Intellectual Property Office (IPO), was granted the Letters Patent Invention by the IPO Office of the Philippines – Bureau of Patents for the Invention titled “Process of Producing Mosquito Attractant with Plant Extract and the Product Thereof”.

The said patent grants the holder the right to restrain and prohibit any unauthorized person or entity from making, using, offering for sale, selling, or importing the product and importing any product obtained directly or indirectly from such process.

This exclusivity serves as a strong motivator to devote skills to innovative projects in addition to acting as a safeguard for the products of intellectual effort while acting as a powerful incentive for investing time, resources, and expertise into ground-breaking endeavors. ~ JFa

Faculty, Staff Train on Pinnacle Technologies

In an era where technological advancements are rapidly transforming the landscape of every industry, the importance of staying updated and adapting to new technologies cannot be overstated. To address this crucial need, a training session by Pinnacle Technologies, Inc. was held at the Eulogio “Amang” Rodriguez Tanghalang Sining (EARTS) on March 22.



NEW TECHNOLOGY. Faculty and staff learn the Pinnacle technology to improve work.

With the primary objective of enhancing knowledge and fostering adaptability to fast-paced technological changes, the training was facilitated by Pinnacle Technologies, Inc. in coordination with the University Management Information System (MIS), as it also aimed to equip attendees with the skills and insights needed to navigate and leverage the new Employee Portal System effectively. Pinnacle Technologies was represented by Ms. Maricris Dumaran in collaboration with Engr. Marvin Baquiran, Information Technology Officer.

The morning training session started with opening remarks from Dr. Nancy Pascual, University President. Dr. Pascual emphasized the significance of continuous learning and evolution in today's digital age. She emphasized that remaining current on developing technology broadens one's knowledge and improves professional competencies, making people more competitive and staying relevant in the modern world.

Attendees from various URS campuses, including Binangonan, Rodriguez, Pililla, Angono, and Cardona campuses convened for the morning session. In contrast, attendees from Morong, Tanay, Cainta, Taytay, and Antipolo City campuses met during the afternoon session. Ms. Dumaran and the University MIS team led workshops and discussions tailored to the topics regarding the introduction of the new Employee Portal System that includes Account Activation, Leave, Official Business (OB), Seminar Management, Overtime (OT), Compensatory Overtime Credit (COC), Compensatory Time Off (CTO), Work from Home (WFH) management; and Change Schedule and Correction for Time In/Out management. The open forum followed afterward.

As the sessions close, Dr. Marvin Amoin, Vice President for Administration and Finance, delivered closing remarks, expressing gratitude to the attendees for their active participation and emphasizing the importance of applying the knowledge gained from the training in their respective roles. Dr. Amoin reiterated the need for a continuous learning mindset, emphasizing that the journey toward technological proficiency is ongoing and dynamic.

Padilla, Studes Register Utility Model

Prof. Earth Padilla of URS Morong Campus together with Jemmygrace Espiritu Santo, Wynona Beatriz San Juan, Julie Dianne Arroyo, Rejinah Fe Del Rey, and Cristine Antonete Pantaleon, University of Rizal System (URS) Laboratory Schools students, with the support of the URS Intellectual Property Office (IPO) applied for the registration of technologies under Utility Model titled “A Process of Making Textile Fiber from Fish Scales” and “Composition of Textile Fiber Derived from Fish Scales and Hot-Melt Adhesives” at the Bureau of Patents, IPO Office of the Philippines, Taguig City.

Having been accepted for registration, the IPO grants and/or assigns the grantees the exclusive right throughout the Philippines to make use, sell, or import the utility model, for a term of seven years from the date of filing. ~JFa

STRASUC Holds First Culture, Arts Consultation

The Southern Tagalog Regional Association of State Universities and Colleges (STRASUC), Inc. held its first consultative meeting at the Audio-visual Education Center (AVEC) of the URS Morong Campus on March 7-8.



STRASUC. State U and college representatives pose for a souvenir.

In attendance were representatives from different state colleges and universities of Region IV joined by URS officials, namely Prof. Zion Cleto, Cavite State University; Prof. Dexter Tarabe, Dr. Mary Jane Arkoleda, and Prof. Jose Fernandez, Palawan State University; Prof. Mark Magsino, Batangas State University; Dr. Angelito Quiñones and Prof. Edralin Onsos, Occidental Mindoro State College; Prof. Ruby Ann Lantita, Marinduque State College; Prof. Roselie Gonzales and Prof. Sheridan Bicaldo, Mindoro State University; Prof. Francis Jose Dela Cruz, Prof. Jeanfel Casino, Laguna State Polytechnic University; Prof. Federico Ceribo and Prof. Victor Francia, Southern Luzon State University; Prof. Rowena Cardenas and Prof. Aivi Buan, University of the Philippines – Los Baños; Prof. Romelyn Dacanay, Western Philippines University; and, Dr. Nancy Pascual, Dr. Edward Andreccio, and Mr. Jobert Perez, University of Rizal System.

In the opening program, Dr. Xenia Canale, Campus Director of URS Morong, greeted the guests in her welcome remarks. Dr. Angelito Quiñones Jr., President of the Association of Culture and Arts Directors and Coordinators of Region IV (ACADC-RIV), presented the rationale and introduced the participants. Dr. Nancy Pascual, URS President, and Dr. Allan Conde, Vice President for Academic Affairs, respectively, conveyed their messages. Dwight Frederick Sanvictores of URS Morong, gold medalist of the 7th STRASUC violin competition, serenaded everyone.

The meeting was held on the first day's afternoon, and discussions continued during the second day. Prof. Romelyn Dacanay, Culture and Arts Director, WPU Secretary, ACADC RIV, declared the quorum and did the readings of the minutes of the previous meetings. It was immediately followed by the presentation of the new agenda by Dr. Angelito Quiñones, Jr. Dr. Edward Andreccio, Head of URS Culture and Arts, PRO of ACADC RIC, imparted his message and the significance of this first step to the forthcoming STRASUC 2024.//

URS, IPOPHL Ink Partnership

The University of Rizal System (URS) recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL). The signing took place during the 3rd Innovation and Technology Support Office (ITSO) President's Summit held at the Dusit Hotel in Makati City on March 18.

The establishment of ITSO offices is one of the flagship initiatives of IPOPHL. The signing of the MOA binds URS and IPOPHL towards the undertaking of the project with the objectives of strengthening the institutional capacity of the host institution to conduct patent search, patent drafting, and assistance in patent prosecution; increasing accessibility by the host institution to patent information,

73 Faculty, Staff Take Oath

Seventy-three newly promoted faculty members and non-teaching staff have officially taken their Oath of Office as part of the 2017 Omnibus Rules on Appointments and Other Human Resource Actions (ORA-OHRA) via Microsoft Teams on February 14.

The ceremony began with a warm welcome from Dr. Marvin Amoin, Vice President for Administration and Finance. Dr. Amoin's opening remarks set a tone of appreciation and anticipation for the achievements and contributions of the faculty and staff members.

Following Dr. Amoin's address, Dr. Nancy Pascual, the esteemed University President, delivered a heartfelt congratulatory message to the newly promoted members. Dr. Pascual's words not only celebrated their accomplishments but also emphasized the importance of their roles in shaping the university's future.

Subsequently, Dr. Pascual proceeded to administer the oath of office, underscoring the commitment of the promoted individuals to uphold the values and standards of excellence at URS. This solemn moment symbolized their dedication to their duties and responsibilities within the institution.

and increasing innovative and inventive outputs manifested by increased patent filing by or through the host institution.

Dr. Leo Rio, Head, Intellectual Property Office of URS, and Prof. Jerry Esperanza, Head, Research Development Unit of Cardona Campus, represented the University on March 18-19.

The 3rd ITSO President's Summit which included a ceremonial MOA signing. The program included opening remarks from Atty. Ann Claire Cabachan, Deputy Director General of IPOPHL; keynote messages from Atty. Rowel Barba, Director General of IPOPHL, and Dr. Napoleon Juanillo Jr., Assistant Secretary of Technology Transfer, Communication and Commercialization (TTCC) of DOST; message of support by Dr. Tirso Ronquillo, President of Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC); and closing remarks by Ralph Jarvis Alindogan, Director IV, DITTB, IPOPHL. **embr**