

Rizal's Legacy...

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and Slahvica Princess Mancile, Rodriguez; Kim Russel Cabrega, Tanay; and, Jan Clarenz San Juan, Taytay. The students engaged in various lectures, discussions, and workshops to develop their capacity to advocate for positive change and empower their communities.

The student delegates not only participated but also secured several major wins in the institute's competitions, showcasing both talent and dedication to Rizalian principles. They are Kim Russel Abrega, Mark Lester Eduarte, and Jan Clarenz San Juan; first, second, and third places, respectively, in the Makabayang Sayawitan; and, John Mar Narciso, runner-up, On-the-spot Painting Contest.

The NRYLI is designed to instill the principles of leadership, nationalism, and civic responsibility, ensuring that Rizal's legacy continues to inspire the next generation of Filipino leaders. *—ABC/AGMadueño*

Project TRANSFORM Launched

Dr. Nancy Pascual attended the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Signing for the Implementation of Project Transdisciplinary Approach for Resilience and Environmental Sustainability through Multi-stakeholder Engagement (TRANSFORM) at Cuyambay, Tanay, Rizal, on December 11.



The signatories included the University of Rizal System (URS), the Municipality of Tanay represented by Mayor Rex Manuel Tanjuatco; the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), represented by Mr. Raphael Lotilla; the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) represented by Atty Al Perreras; A. Brown Company, represented by Arch. Jason Santos; the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) represented by Mr. Lionel Dalope; the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) represented by Mr. Reynaldo Dingal; and the Province of Rizal represented by Hon. Reynaldo San Juan, Jr., Mr. Augusto De la Peña, Undersecretary for Organizational Transformation and Human Resources, and OIC for Strategic Communications of DENR; and Hon. Nina Ricci Ynares-Chiongbian, Governor, Rizal Province; gave their inspirational messages.

The signing officially launches the project in Tanay, which is expected to utilize a transdisciplinary approach to create concrete, sustainable, and community-driven solutions for environmental and climate-related challenges.

Project TRANSFORM aims to bridge the gap "From Science to Action," empowering LGUs like the Municipality of Tanay to take proactive leadership in safeguarding their communities and environments. *~abc*

URS Finishes 8th Overall in STRASUC '25

The University of Rizal System (URS) fielded 146 student-athletes, together with their coaches and university officials, in the Southern Tagalog Regional Association of State Universities and Colleges (STRASUC) Olympics 2025.

The event was hosted by Marinduque State University (MSU) from November 22 to 28. The URS delegation competed in various sporting events and achieved the 8th Place Overall Standing in the regional competition. *~embr*



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URS Gets ICONS Awards

The University of Rizal System (URS) is proud to be conferred with the Internationalization Champions of Nation-building and Sustainability (ICONS) Awards of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), as it placed the University in the Times Higher Education 2025 Rankings.



ICONIC. Dr. Nancy Pascual, third from left, shows the plaque of recognition received from CHED.

The ICONS Awards of CHED celebrate the Philippine Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) for their role in championing the Philippine higher education sector on the international stage. It continues to recognize the exemplary performance of Philippine HEIs as their presence grows in renowned international ranking tables. This ceremony is a vital avenue for acknowledging the high-impact initiatives of Philippine HEIs toward sustainability, ASEAN awareness, and internationalization, along with the leaders whose vision transformed these goals into concrete achievements and milestones.

Dr. Nancy Pascual, President, received the award at the Philippine International Convention Center, Pasay City, on December 10. ~

International Leadership Webinar Held

The First International Leadership Webinar 2025 was successfully held on December 4 via Zoom and streamed live through Facebook Live. The webinar carried the theme "Lead Beyond Borders: Inspiring Student Leaders with a Global Perspective."

The Office of Student Development Services initiated the event through the Student Organizations and Activities Unit.

With the keynote speaker, Ms. Sumina Lam, International Youth Ambassador for Peace of Korea, the webinar gathered student leaders across URS campuses. Participants gained meaningful insights into global leadership and cross-cultural engagement.

This initiative highlights the university's continued commitment to empowering globally aware and service-driven student leaders. *~Jluris*

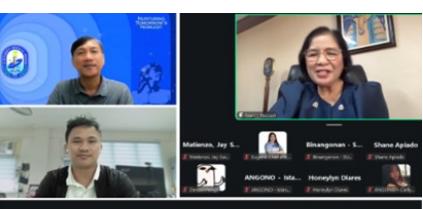
Rizal's Legacy Inspires at 63rd NRYLI

Fifteen students from various campuses of the University of Rizal System (URS) recently participated in the 63rd National Rizal Youth Leadership Institute (NRYLI), the longest-running flagship youth leadership program of the Knights of Rizal.

The four-day event, held from December 5 to 8 at the Chavit Coliseum in Vigan City, Ilocos Sur, gathered young leaders to embody the ideals of the Philippine national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal. The institute operated under the inspiring theme, "Rizalian LeaderSHAPE: Shaping Heroic Advocacy, Advancing People's Empowerment."

The delegation of students, guided by advisers Mr. Jonathan Luris and Prof. Rex Gonzales, represented their respective campuses: John Mar Narciso, Angono Campus; Mark Lester Manuel Eduarte, Kyle Macatantan, and Eliza Jane Alemerol, Antipolo; Romina Villones, Binangonan; Thaniel Khurt Saromenes, and

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URS Prexy Approves New Faculty Appointments

The University of Rizal System (URS) has officially announced a new batch of faculty appointments across its various campuses following the approval of two Office Memoranda issued by University President Dr. Nancy Pascual.

Under Office Memorandum No. 107, Series of 2025, appointments were approved pursuant to the University Faculty Selection Board Resolution No. 34-35, Series of 2025, effective November 3, 2025. The memorandum covers the appointment of sixteen faculty members to the ranks of Instructor II and Instructor III assigned to the Pililla, Cardona, Morong, Cainta, Angono, and Antipolo campuses.

The newly appointed Instructor III faculty members include Marlon Bautista and Ivench Percival Pugong (Pililla), Errol Rosaldo (Cardona), Kean Edrich Santos (Morong), Ramil Uminga (Cainta), and Jennifer Veloria (Angono). Meanwhile, ten faculty members were appointed as Instructor II. They are Rhenz Cedrick Cequeña, Mark Lee Cheungkock, Angelica Hernandez, John Raven Manansala, Cristina Millare, Gretchen Ortal, and Ramona Marcialina Reodique from Morong; and Marvin Alindayu, Ruben Dumaoan, and Rex Gonzales from Antipolo

Subsequently, Office Memorandum No. 108, Series of 2025, dated November 19, 2025, announced another set of faculty appointments in accordance with University Faculty Selection Board Resolution No. 36-37, Series of 2025, effective November 17, 2025. This memorandum approved the appointment of five faculty members to the rank of Assistant Professor, assigned to the Antipolo, Rodriguez, Tanay, and Cainta campuses. Among those appointed are Melving Marcelo and May Cortez as Assistant Professor III, while Marilou Hernandez, Gerald Ricafrente, and Marjorie San Juan were appointed as Assistant Professor I. ~abc

Training on Website Content Development, Strategic Communication Held

The University of Rizal System (URS), through the Office of Public Affairs, conducted a two-day Website Content Development Training on November 12-13 at the URS Morong Campus to enhance institutional communication and strengthen the university's online presence.

The training opened with Dir. Mark Lester Del Mundo Chico, Director of the University of the Philippines Los Baños Media and Communication Office, who discussed best practices in web content development, strategic storytelling, and news and feature writing for institutional branding. He emphasized the importance of clarity, audience-centeredness, consistency, and credibility in communicating the university's identity and value to a global audience.

On the second day, Prof. Arminda Campo, Head of Publication and Media Services, tackled editing and headline writing in the age of artificial intelligence, underscoring the need for human judgment in refining AI-assisted content. Dr. Norberto Nataño, Director of the Center for Lifelong Learning, meanwhile, discussed strategic communication for office units, highlighting the importance of consistent templates, coordination, and accuracy in public information.

Workshops on both days allowed participants to write, critique, and revise news and feature articles based on campus activities. University officials and representatives from various administrative offices graced the activity, which gathered select faculty members, unit heads, and staff. ~MRPSioson

Faculty Studies Shine in URS-BRITE

Season 1 of the University of Rizal System Building Resilience, Innovation toward Transformation and Excellence Program (URS BRITE): A Training Writeshop for Giants and Future Thinkers was conducted on November 25-26 at the Bakasyunan Resort and Conference Center, Tanay, Rizal.

The training aimed to strengthen the University's research culture to develop relevant and innovative research proposals and outputs, and to foster critical thinking and problem-solving skills among student-researchers. The program also provided technical guidance and mentoring to both faculty and student participants to improve research productivity, integrate futures thinking concepts, elevate the overall quality of research outputs, and promote collaboration and interdisciplinary approaches to produce transformative and sustainable research outcomes toward a more resilient future.

The event was spearheaded by the Office of the Vice President for Research Development, Extension, and Production Division (RDEP) and the Intellectual Property, Innovation, and Technology Support Hub (IPITSH), in collaboration with the Academic Affairs Division. It was attended by a total of 50 faculty researchers and 195 student-participants.

The 2-day training writeshop concluded with the awarding of recognition for exemplary URS BRITE student research presenters. Read more at <http://www.urs.edu.ph/faculty-students-shine-in-urs-brite/> EMBR



Mentors Hailed in Rizal-wide Guronasyon Awards

Two distinguished educators from the University of Rizal System (URS) were honored as Guronasyon Awardees in a prestigious ceremony recognizing exemplary teachers and academic leaders in the province of Rizal. The awarding program was held at the Casimiro Ynares Auditorium, Binangonan, Rizal, and carried the theme "Noon at Ngayon, Husay at Talino: Taas Noo, Gurong Rizalenyo."

Dr. Norma Elviña, Director of the URS Angono Campus, was conferred the Outstanding College Academic Head award. The recognition highlights her dedicated leadership, commitment to academic excellence, and significant contributions to institutional development and quality education. Under her guidance, the URS Angono Campus has continuously advanced its academic programs and strengthened its role in community engagement and service.

Meanwhile, Dr. Marlon Bautista, faculty member of the College of Engineering at URS Morong Campus, received the Outstanding College Faculty award. Dr. Bautista was recognized for exemplary performance in teaching, research, and extension services, as well as his dedication to mentoring students and fostering innovation in engineering education.

The Guronasyon Awards celebrate the vital role of educators in shaping the past, present, and future of Rizal through excellence, competence, and integrity. This year's theme emphasized the enduring pride and honor of being a Gurong Rizalenyo—one who stands with head held high in service of knowledge and nation-building. ~



DR. NORMA ELVIÑA



DR. MARLON BAUTISTA

RDEP Holds Back-to-back Extension, Research Planning

The University of Rizal System, through the Office of the Vice President for Research Development, Extension, and Production (RDEP), conducted two consecutive capacity-building activities in December 2025 aimed at strengthening community engagement and advancing the University's research agenda.



On December 9-10, the URS Extension Services Unit organized WRITE 2.0: Enabling Access to Knowledge and Technology for Enhanced Community Services Delivery, a workshop that emphasized transforming research and technology into accessible, community-ready information. Extension leaders and practitioners participated in lectures and workshops on effective information design and content development, highlighting the importance of people-centered and responsive communication in extension work. Resource speakers Elmer Harold Grande of the DTI Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions and Jocelyn Gagalang of the Office of Public Affairs shared practical strategies on educational material design and content relevance. The activity culminated in the presentation and refinement of participant outputs through collaborative feedback.

Immediately following this, URS conducted the Research Development Strategic Planning Workshop on December 11-12. The workshop gathered faculty researchers and research leaders to review existing priorities and craft strategic directions for the University's R&D programs. Discussions and planning sessions were facilitated by Jerry Esperanza, with feedback and synthesis sessions led by the RDEP team. The activity concluded with the presentation and critiquing of strategic outputs per program cluster.

Both workshops were held at the Amazing View Mountain Farm Resort in Mabitac, Laguna. ~ LMBCamp