



R I S E O F T H E
HERONS

UMAK ANNUAL REPORT: 50TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION



UNIVERSITY OF MAKATI
www.umak.edu.ph

BEYOND THE PAGE

In line with the 50th Anniversary of the University of Makati, a special edition of the annual report was prepared for the stakeholders to communicate information that highlights the realization of the vision and the utilization of its budget from the city which equipped and empowered the different proponents.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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(as of August 2022)

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Published in Makati City, Philippines by the University of Makati, JP Rizal Extension, West Rembo, Makati City

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Printed and bound by: Gateway Art and Graphics Inc.

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MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

The University of Makati (UMak) has come a long way since its establishment 50 years ago as a Polytechnic Community College. The past five decades have seen its remarkable transformation into an excellent institution of higher learning that has blazed the trail for locally-run universities in the country.

As we mark the 50th founding anniversary of UMak, we humbly acknowledge the invaluable contributions of its past and present administrators, faculty and staff, to its current stature in the academic community. This milestone in itself is a fitting tribute to the late Prof. Tomas B. Lopez, Jr. who had served as UMak President for 19 years, and my father, former Vice President and Makati Mayor Jejomar C. Binay. They were kindred spirits whose firm belief in education as the great equalizer sustained their passion to build a legacy of cutting edge and relevant education that will benefit Proud Makatizens for generations to come.

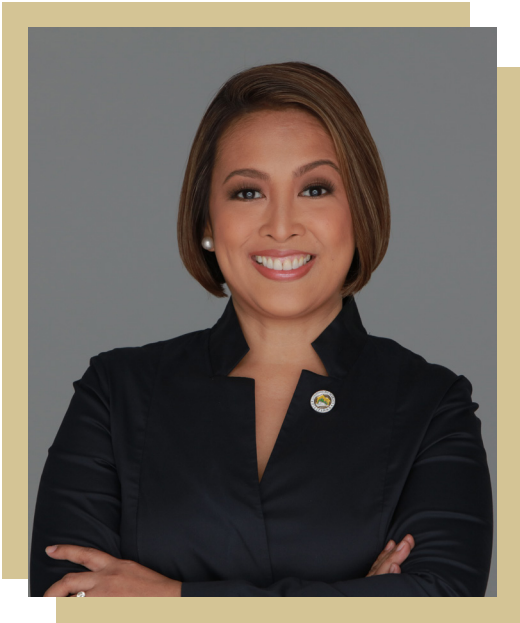
We also express our heartfelt gratitude to our loyal industry partners. Their unstinting support has given our young Makatizens a better, more secure future.

To our beloved UMak alumni, we salute you for honoring your Alma Mater with your achievements. May you continue to inspire future graduates to give back to the community and contribute to nation-building.

The pandemic has underscored the need for future proof-education. Rest assured that your city government and my administration will work to provide future generations of *Makatizens* the kind of education that will empower them to keep pace with global trends and standards. We will continue to build on the vision of UMak, and guarantee a legacy that will endure for the next 50 years.

Congratulations to all Proud *Makatizens*!

Happy Golden Anniversary, Herons!



HON. MAR-LEN ABIGAIL S. BINAY

Mayor, Makati City
Chairman, Board of Regents
University of Makati

MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE VICE MAYOR

My warmest greetings to all Proud Makatizens!

With great pride and honor, we present the University of Makati's Annual Report: 50th Anniversary Edition. This contains the accomplishments and achievements of the University of Makati for the past year and how it evolved in the last 50 years.

The University of Makati has been a steadfast institution in providing quality education to our Makatizens: UMak has achieved many milestones and has reached different heights, and I am beyond proud to have witnessed this.

In the many years to come, may UMak be as productive, innovative, excellent and adaptive to the new trends. We in the city government will always be ready to support and guide UMak to create a positive change in the community, in the city, and throughout the country.

Thank you very much at *mabuhay kayong lahat!*



**HON. MONIQUE YAZMIN MARIA
Q. LAGDAMEO**
Vice Mayor, Makati City

MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE - 1ST DISTRICT

I extend my warmest greetings and congratulations to the University of Makati (UMak) on the celebration of its 50th founding anniversary. This milestone truly marks an incredible journey that continues to enrich the lives of many people and nurtures the special bond made between educators and learners.

Throughout the past five (5) decades, UMak has established itself as an institution vital to the progress of Makati City. It has transformed to become the city's leading local university and a place reflective of the aspirations and dreams of Makatizens. Without a doubt, its culture of growth and greatness has also paved the way for many of our city's industry pioneers, leaders, and productive citizens.

I am proud that UMak carries on as a community where the Makati youth are given the freedom to explore and pursue their passions. With the guidance of our hard-working mentors and teachers, I am optimistic that UMak will stand firm on its commitment to mold upcoming nation-builders. As partners of the youth, it is important that we learn from their strength, creativity, and resilience. We must believe that working together will only further deepen our Filipino spirit and sense of community.

While we celebrate the University's history, let us also look forward to its promising future. May we be reminded of all the opportunities that this institution has provided for Makati and how it thrives to this day as a lively place of possibilities and inspiration.

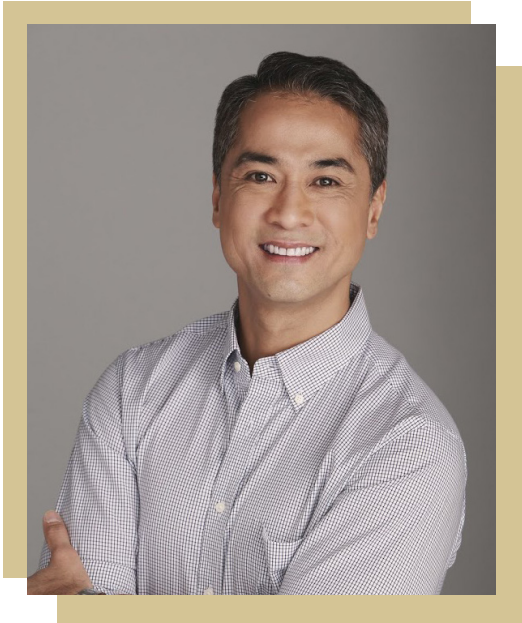
Once again, congratulations to the University of Makati!
Mabuhay ang UMak Family!



HON. ROMULO "KID" V. PEÑA JR.
Representative - District 1, Makati City

MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE - 2ND DISTRICT

Happy 50th Anniversary, University of Makati!



**HON. LUIS JOSE ANGEL N.
CAMPOS JR.**

Representative - District 2, Makati City

I congratulate all on this momentous occasion as we celebrate this milestone. Half a century ago, this great institution was founded on the principles of innovation and excellence in education. And you have lived up to those ideals, delivering high-quality education and professional training to young Makatizens.

I am so proud of what you have accomplished and the difference you have made. UMak has produced countless leaders, academicians, athletes, and entrepreneurs in the last decades. You continue setting standards for innovative and dynamic education, research, development and services.

In the years to come, the University will continue to reach new heights and help shape our nation's future.

So here's to another 50 years of outstanding achievements, UMak.

Congratulations, and keep up the great work!

What does it mean to be a **HERON**?



EXCERPT FROM OF HERONS, GRASSY MARSHLAND, AND EBBING TIDE

BY: MS. CYNTHIA MARGARETTA R. JOSE, MBA

DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR LINKAGES, CAREER DEVELOPMENT, AND PLACEMENT

Resilient yet tenacious. Patient yet quick. Strong yet graceful. Aquatic but are considered excellent flyers. Solitary and independent but nest in colonies and can be protective. Because they see well even at night, they are active both day and night. And best of all, herons thrive virtually anywhere in the world.

All these describe one of the most highly adaptive animals in the world. It is no wonder that UMak has chosen herons as part of its branding to represent the UMak character. It would not have survived 50 years if it did not carry the heron's adaptive nature, possessing contrasting characteristics and employing those that are most appropriate to its advantage while downplaying the opposing ones as the situation called for it.

Perhaps the heron spirit truly lives on in UMak even as these remarkable creatures no longer abound in Makati. While it is now a bustling financial and commercial center, the once grassy Pasig River still runs across this premiere city – a reminder of the seemingly worthless wasteland that Makati was seen as by the Spaniards in 1571 when they first stumbled upon it as the river's tide was ebbing.

And adapt and survive it did – From a small technical-vocational community college for underprivileged and low income residents of Makati established when Martial Law was brewing, to a full-fledged college with baccalaureate and graduate programs soon after the first EDSA Revolution; From the three name changes as the school underwent strategic realignment, to piloting of the largest senior high school program in the country, and to the more recent institutionalization of its Learning Management System, again one of the first local universities in the country to respond to the mandate for flexible learning amidst the global pandemic.

BIRD'S EYE VIEW: THE MANCOM PERSPECTIVE



PROF. ELYXZUR C. RAMOS, CESE, PhD
OIC PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Q: Using three words, what does it mean to be a heron?

A: **Unique, Man, Kind (UMAK)**

Unique:The late UMak Pres. Tommy Lopez developed the character of uniqueness in UMak. **Not only are our students and programs unique in the way we did things by trailblazing a revolution in education but it is also a unique story in itself.**

Man, or a total human being also characterizes a UMak Heron. A UMak heron is not only honed intellectually but also physically and spiritually as well.

Kind: A UMak heron is kind because we are not only a “total human being” but we also understand how it is to be human.

Q: UMak turned 50 years old this year. What do you think is its greatest achievement?

A: **UMak’s greatest achievement is being true to its commitment to provide quality education, primarily to the residents of the city of Makati, that equipped them to face and excel in their chosen career path or profession.**

Q: Where do you see the University in the next 50 years?

A: UMak has achieved so many recognitions in our country and is heralded as one of the best if not the best local University in the Philippines. **50 years from now, it will also be recognized as one of the best local Universities in the world.**



PROF. EDERSON DT. TAPIA, PhD, DPA
VICE PRESIDENT FOR PLANNING AND RESEARCH

Q: Using three words, what does it mean to be a heron?

A: **Driven. Resilient. Cosmopolitan.**

Q: UMak turned 50 years old this year. What do you think is its greatest achievement?

A: **UMak’s greatest achievement in the last fifty years is that it was instrumental in positively changing the lives of thousands of its graduates. It has also contributed immensely to making quality education accessible, especially to those at the margins.**

Q: Where do you see the University in the next 50 years?

A: **I see UMak becoming a national leader in teaching, research, and innovation in fifty years. It will also be one of the top universities in Asia, doing cutting-edge work across varied disciplines and endeavors while continuously doing its share in improving the lives of the people of Makati.**

RISE OF THE HERONS



ATTY. JEWEL C. BULOS, MBA
VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATION

Q: Using three words, what does it mean to be a heron?

A: **GLOBAL:** Herons are distributed in all or most parts of the world including Antarctica! UMak herons shine and bloom in any part of the globe that they are planted.

PRECISE and TACTICAL: Herons calculate the position of the prey in water and recompense for refraction, then further, the bill is used to slice the prey; birds may either do this from a vertical position or giving them a wider area to observe the prey.

Q: UMak turned 50 years old this year. What do you think is its greatest achievement?

A: **The unveiling of the UMak sculpture will serve as the symbol of our University pride and legacy** to the next generation of students and employees.

Q: Where do you see the University in the next 50 years?

A: **UMak will have different campuses located in various parts of the City which specialize in certain fields of study.** It will be the **top University of choice for intelligent but underprivileged students and graduates from different science high schools.** Lastly, its **alumni are known to have cemented their place in the public, private, and non-government sectors** creating names in national and international platforms.



PROF. VIRGILIO B. TABBU, MA
VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT SERVICES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Q: Using three words, what does it mean to be a heron?

A: **Brave, forbearing, grit**

Q: UMak turned 50 years old this year. What do you think is its greatest achievement?

A: By innovating curricular offerings in partnership with the industry, **UMak pioneered in clearly defining the landscape of Philippine education based on the lineage of an institution. Its dualized university education system (DUES) where industry and academe meet provided quality tertiary education and immediate employment for UMak graduates.**

The Senior High School (SHS) program is also considered one of the greatest contributions of UMak to the Philippine Basic Education System having piloted the biggest SHS in the country and laid the foundation of the K to 12 Program that unlocked the full potential of the 21st century Filipino youth.

Q: Where do you see the University in the next 50 years?

A: **I see the university in the next 50 years as a driver for change in preparing to deliver the next trend of graduates for jobs that will be emerging in the future.** As some set of workers will eventually be replaced by artificially intelligent computers, UMak will evolve to produce a new breed of graduates whose skills and competencies will be aligned with the demands of the future workforce.



ENGR. LUKE IVAN B. MORO, DBAc
VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE

Q: Using three words, what does it mean to be a heron?

A: Madiskarte, Pliant, Ordinary

Q: UMak turned 50 years old this year. What do you think is its greatest achievement?

A: The university's greatest achievement is it transformed the lives of its alumni. While established in 1972, its existence proved to be providential because of two developments in later years. ONE, the 1987 Constitution made secondary education free for all Filipinos. TWO, NCEE as a requirement for a college education was scrapped in 1994 as then-DepEd Secretary Roco wanted all Filipino high school graduates to be able to enter college.

These developments resulted in a surge of number of students wanting to earn a college education, not all of which can be absorbed by SUCs and private HEIS. Locally-funded universities and colleges like University of Makati are just too happy and willing to fill this gap. LCUs like University of Makati has an advantage over SUCs - proximity to the students it serves. This minimizes day-to-day expenses of students.

Q: Where do you see the University in the next 50 years?

A: I wish to see the university to be a recognized HEI in the field of business, engineering, technology, and allied health education. As the country's financial capital, the city needs professionals who are adept in running businesses which includes professionals in finance, accountancy and human resources management, support processes such as ICT and engineering technology. A city must also be able to meet the health needs of its citizens.



PROF. MARIA FAY NENETTE M. CARIAGA, RPh, MSPH, PhD
UNIVERSITY SECRETARY

Q: Using three words, what does it mean to be a heron?

A: Adaptive, resilient, lifelong learner

Q: UMak turned 50 years old this year. What do you think is its greatest achievement?

A: It has evolved to be at par not just with community colleges offering tech-voc programs in a local standpoint but also with universities on a national landscape, in the offering of regulated professional programs, continuing and advanced studies, moreso, in the areas of arts and sports. Together with this, is the notable improvement in terms of its resources, processes and systems in the context of governance as a department of the City of Makati.

The re-awakening of consciousness that there is a responsible need to translate numbers into meaningful, remarkable and quality accomplishments.

Q: Where do you see the University in the next 50 years?

A: ..a stand-out, top of mind, transformative local university excelling in both local/national and global standpoints

RISE OF THE HERONS: CRAFTING IDENTITY AND LEGACY AT 50

*BY: ASSOC. PROF. MARY ACEL D. GERMAN, MA
DEAN, COLLEGE OF ARTS & LETTERS*

October 5, 2022, World Teachers Day. A considerable crowd of City and University officials, faculty members, admin staff, students, and guests gathered at UMak grounds. In a festival-ish and urban street party style, everyone vibed with the music, dances, and poetic verses staged by its homegrown creatives. Festivity revisited the campus after almost three years of social distancing.

Rising to the occasion

The star of the occasion was the bundle of veiled mass sitting across the iconic Acacia Tree. It was the first time the University had public art under its name. The unveiling must reflect the excited anticipation the community has collectively shared. Officials led by Makati First District Congressman Romulo “Kid” Peña and OIC President Prof. Elyxzur Ramos ceremoniously unveiled the 15 feet bronze sculpture. From a distance, the crowd stood still, phone cameras focused on the artwork, capturing the historic occasion. For a brief moment, it was moving, surreal even.

Setting sights on the legacy

The free-standing sculpture depicting five herons framed between sedges and the setting sun is a commemorative cultural symbol that marks UMak’s 50th Founding Anniversary. It is a Legacy Project intended for the next generation of students and employees, to stimulate

collective memory and institutional pride. Whilst enhancing the existing architecture and campus landscape, the sculpture offers the community an opportunity to experience art any time of the day, while allowing the story of 50 golden years to unfold in the eyes of the community of herons.

Getting off the ground

This project dates back to 2008, when Mayor Jejomar Binay commissioned National Artist for Sculpture Napoleon Abueva to create an alma mater sculpture, only to encounter setbacks leading to its prolonged delay until the death of the National Artist in 2018. Since then, only the maquette or the scale model was seen of the Abueva sculpture.

As the University prepared for its golden anniversary, talks about reviving the project have been raised. On September 9, 2021 through Management Committee Memorandum 2021-007, the management officially formed a committee to get the project off the ground. The Legacy Sculpture Committee rolled up their sleeves to tackle the daunting task. Like the herons, it took them resilience and focus, not to mention some degree of friction and compromise, to get this project off the ground.

On the fence

Considering that this was a public art and a legacy project, decision-making was shared with the UMak community aiding the management, who are still on the fence, decide on three unique concepts. In the end, Baguio-based



SEPTEMBER 16
Arrival of the sculpture
from Baguio to UMak

● **OCTOBER 5**
Unveiling ceremony

● **MARCH 22**
Groundbreaking ceremony

2022

OCTOBER 22
Announcement of results

● **SEPTEMBER 24-30**
Online Voting of the
Top 3 artworks

SEPTEMBER 21
Presentation of the final
selection to ManCom

● **SEPTEMBER 13-15**
Concept pitching by eight
participating artists

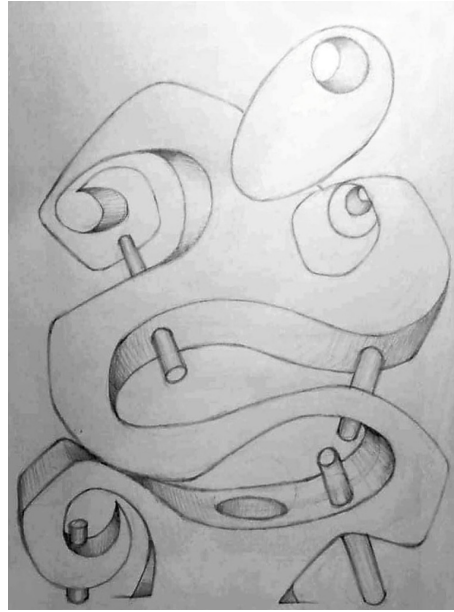
SEPTEMBER 10
Call for artworks

2021

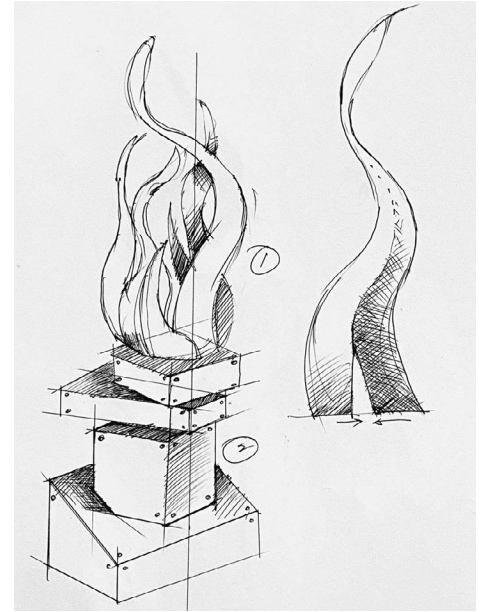
RISE OF THE HERONS



^ *Flight of the Herons* Sketch
by Mr. Benhur “Bumbo” Villanueva



^ *The Being* Sketch by Dantis
^ Artists’ Sketches Courtesy of Prof. Agnes Medina



^ *Alab* Sketch by Osler Ladia

sculptor Benhur “Bumbo” Villanueva’s piece, originally titled *Flight of the Herons*, garnered an overwhelming 70.3% of the community’s votes. It prevailed over the equally beautiful concepts of Doug Dantis’ *The Being* and Osler Ladia’s *Alab*.

Dantis’ *The Being* was intellectual and thought-provoking. Inspired by Rene Descarte’s philosophy, “I think therefore I am,” Dantis reminded, “there can be no being without thinking, no creation without intent.” The sculpture’s body follows a graceful line, the impressionism of infinite flame. He described this flame as “a wildfire in the delicate fabric of society, molding its landscape in endless creation and destruction of values, ideas, systems, and destinies”. Looking at the complete structure, one would notice the flames forming into an abstract human figure in the shape of Auguste Rodin’s legendary art piece, *The Thinker*, the icon of thought. This sculptural approach sits well with an educational institution. Dantis’ modernist piece is symbolic of the University’s place in the 21st century as an institution that shapes the future. The flame structure symbolizes

enlightenment, which according to Dantis, is the “University’s paramount gift to its students”.

Ladia’s *Alab* was modern, minimalist, elegant, and graceful. He envisioned a tower of stainless steel blades that “resemble a flame that may change color and shape depending on the time of day”. The central blaze was heron-shaped which Ladia described as “a proud Heron that looks up to God”. The artwork was enigmatic and could evoke much meaning. It is symbolic of UMaK’s cutting-edge quality that flames one’s passion and keeps it burning despite weather conditions.

Finally, while the other two concepts had universal meanings, Villanueva’s *Flight of the Herons* drove through the core of UMaK’s idiosyncrasies; it was personal and intimate. Villanueva spoke of the University where herons nestle and prepare for the sunrise - to adapt to the ever-changing environment, to “take charge, flap their wings and take flight”. From the moment Villanueva first presented the concept, the artwork struck its audience with a certain

reverence. The piece was soulful, spiritual, and profound.

In the exercise of due diligence, the Committee later recommended a title change. This move was to steer clear of possible copyright issues with a classic novel bearing the same title. Hence, the *Rise of the Herons*.



^ Student cultural organizations revved up the street party at the Unveiling ceremony last October 5, 2022.

Legacy Sculpture Committee:

- Atty. Jewel Bulos • Ms. Aurora Serrano • Engr. Luke Ivan Moro •
• Assoc. Prof. Mary Acel German • Ms. Jennifer Odiña •
• Ms. Zosima Datuin • Asst. Prof. Agnes Medina • Mr. Wovi Villanueva •
• Asst. Prof. Florabel Berenguela -Esteban •
• Ms. Lourlene Joy Ugaddan • Mr. Ivan Tejana •

Project Collaborators: Mr. Eleazar Santiago • Engr. Gerby de Castro •
Asst. Prof. Stanley Rovira • Asst. Prof. Maria Theresa Icalla •

Unveiling Program Collaborators: Prof. Gil Tabbu • College of Arts and Letters • Center for Culture and the Arts • Supply and Property Management Office • General Services Office • Center for Integrated Communications • College of Tourism and Hospitality Management • Accounting Office

Making Headway

The 50th founding anniversary officially concluded on December 13, 2022, through a university-wide convocation. A marker was installed at the base of the sculpture to memorialize the foundations of this legacy.

From here on, this public art will stand as a firm reminder of the time-tested and collectively crafted identity of the University and its dream to soar even higher to yet another fruitful fifty years.

###



^ Mr. Villanueva and his team installing the sculpture onsite after a long trip from his studio in Baguio City.

ARTIST'S DESCRIPTION

“As the day ends and the bounties of the land have been harvested, they race towards the setting sun. Home to their nests, they nestle peacefully in their shelter, ready to calm themselves before they shut their eyes.

For tomorrow, the sun will rise, and they will again prepare for what life has to offer, adapting to their ever-changing world. The clock of nature has again been set.

And these creatures, among all living things, are once more prepared for any challenge they'd face. For as certain as the rising and setting of the sun, this sedge of Herons will take charge, flap their wings, and take flight.”

This Public Art sculpture is a sculpture in the round where every angle is deemed in accordance with its artistic composition. It is considered to take command of its space that no visual obstruction of any form will disgrace its integrity. Being exposed to the elements, it is expected that the art piece will tarnish organically, making its patina greenish verdigris by atmospheric oxidation. For its material, the artist specifically chose to use bronze and brass, being used in these mediums for their malleability and strength. The artist wants to emphasize also that it has been used by the great masters since time immemorial, making it last very long. Being advised of having a standard height requirement for this sculpture, it will stand 15ft. without the base.

This artistic creation is made up of a sedge of Herons with its wings deliberately exaggerated for its visual fluidity. It expresses a marriage of two vital energies essential to the existence of these creatures: Land and Water. As lifted from the school's hymn. The artist furthers his approach by completing the five elements. In this composition, the dominant sets of wings are suggestive, representing Air. The plant life that is part of this creature's habitat holds the five birds, representational of the Wood element. And lastly, Fire, represented by the ever-iridescent sun, is emphasized mainly for its glory, making every living thing depends on it. Collectively, with every element in its proper place, the whole composition will show a silhouette of a figure expressing gratitude to the Creator. This would only be possible if the sculpture's back part faces west, where the sun sets.

With all this being said, I present the RISE OF THE HERONS.

BUMBO VILLANUEVA

SEPTEMBER, 2021



About the Artist | **By: Ms. ERLYN ALCANTARA**

BENHUR JOSEPH “BUMBO” VILLANUEVA

ARKO NI APO ART GALLERY, BAGUIO CITY

A sculptor, painter, installation and performance artist, and art educator, Bumbo has become all these more as a result of a process than of deliberate intent. In his 30 years of art making, he has seen his life and art through phases of upheaval and transformation. The long journey to find his creative path has mostly been about testing his limits: learning, changing, growing, and becoming a composite of the artist he is today.

Many of his works draw from awareness of Cordillera cultural traditions and reverence for the innate spirituality of nature and indigenous communities.

He works in a variety of mediums. His sculptures are mostly in brass, but he works with other materials. Among his notable public art sculptures is the Supremo in bronze; a 15 ft. three-figure freestanding sculpture of Andres Bonifacio, Gregoria de Jesus, and a Katipunan member, that he co-sculpted with his father in 1988 and now stands in BGC, Taguig. In 2009, they commissioned *The Builders*, a 10 ft. five-figure representation of the first builders of Baguio City that now graces the grounds of the city’s Botanical Garden. He has mounted solo exhibitions and joined several group shows in the country and abroad.

He works with out-of-school youth, children in conflict with the law, differently-abled kids, and young scholars. He is an art teacher in the Alternative Learning System for street kids



^ Villanueva welds the base of the sculpture, cementing his mark in UMak’s history.

in Baguio and a mentor for other aspiring young artists/sculptors. He is active in art activities to help calamity victims and cancer patients.

Bumbo survived a heart attack in 2016 and had to undergo major surgery “to fix his heart”. His sensibilities now reflect a deeper meaning of faith and gratitude for second chances. He treats his works like an offering and a sign of his abiding trust in the Maker he calls the Greatest Sculptor. Grateful that he has been allowed to thrive as an artist, he has vowed to share his talent by extending help to others through art.

To share knowledge and interact meaningfully with people in the community is personal advocacy, believing that “the happiness of one’s heart alone cannot satisfy the soul; one must include, as necessary to one’s happiness, the happiness of others”.

###

CELEBRATING THE PAST, IGNITING THE FUTURE:

UNIVERSITY OF MAKATI'S 50TH FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

By: Ms. JUVY B. HERMOSURA, MR. NIÑO E. FAUSTINO, EDD., AND Ms. ICA RAMOS

From the past two years filled with challenges and lockdowns, the University of Makati's Opening Salvo for its 50th Founding Anniversary last March 1, 2022, rekindled a spark that was ready to burn brightly once again. Despite the blistering sun under the summer heat, the beats of Bagito drummers, music, and moves from student organizations such as the UMak Chorale, CAST, and UMak Dance Extreme, and special performances from the multi-awarded Filipino folk singer and songwriter, Mr. Paul Galang, re-energized the

UMak community. Just as the sun slowly creeps into the UMak grounds where the program was held, the spirit of this astounding feat of 50 years of service through innovative and quality education surged into waves of joy, pride, and honor.

Bringing joy and honor to the University is the heart of the institution, its students, and its alumni. Different programs were held for our UMak Herons. The Virtual Career Forum was organized by the Center for Linkages and Career Development and Placement (CLCDP) to prepare



RISE OF THE HERONS

our graduating students for the employment landscape that awaits them by inviting panel discussants from different industries to share their insights and perspectives. Gearing towards a more inclusive institution to become a better learning environment for everyone, the Center for Inclusive Education – Gender and Development (CIE-GAD) conducted a talk with guest speaker Bataan Congresswoman Geraldine Roman entitled *When is Enough, Enough?*. It shed light on current understanding and perspectives on sexuality, gender orientation, and the school’s role in advocating for equality among its constituents.

Making its Mark: Eucharistic Celebration and Blessing of Stone Marker

The Solemn Blessing of the Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Chapel at the University of Makati last March 1, 2022, was indeed a great blessing to the academic community on the occasion of their 50th Founding Anniversary. His Eminence Jose F. Cardinal Advincula, D.D., Archbishop of Manila, led the celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Rev. Fr. Santiago E. Casing, SMM, University



^ Atty. Jewel Bulos welcomed everyone during the Opening Salvo and lauded the UMAK’s HRMO for their efforts in processing the Regularization and Promotion of UMAK employees. She also expressed her gratitude to the City Government of Makati’s HRDO led by Atty. Neil-San G. Patag (photo on the right) for their constant support to UMAK.



“ang layunin ng pag-aaral, pagtuturo at pagtatrabaho ninyo dito sa University of Makati ay huwag sanang mauwi lang sa pag-angat ng pansarili ninyong kita o kalagayan. Sa halip, maging daan at kasangkapan nawa kayo ng katotohanan at paglilingkod sa kapwa.”

- **CARDINAL ADVINCULA SHARED IN HIS HOMILY DURING THE SOLEMN BLESSING**

Chaplain, and some of the clergies from the Archdiocese of Manila and the Society of Montfort Missionaries (SMM).

Cardinal Advincula during his homily emphasized that the newly renovated chapel of UMAK is a testament to the dynamic presence and loving movement of the spirit of God amid and beyond the past 50 years of UMAK. In the middle of his homily, he cited the importance of having a chapel in the university to be a sanctuary of honesty before God who offers liberating truth. He also encouraged everyone to come to the chapel when being pressured to lie or deceive or when the truth is hard to see because it is in this chapel that the faithful can be totally honest before God to listen to His guidance and experience His care. The Archbishop of Manila concluded in his homily that Jesus in the Gospel is also telling the people to aim higher than personal ambition, higher than selfish interest, and yet higher than earthly existence. He exclaimed to aim as high as the heavens above and hope in the promises of God.

Before the rites of the final blessing, the stone marker was unveiled by Mayor Abby Binay and Congressman Luis Campos to remember this significant event. This celebration also marked the beginning of the reservation of the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle as decreed by the



^ Teary-eyed and overjoyed, former Vice President for Finance, Ms. Aurora Serrano delivered her speech as one of this year's awardees and retirees.



^ Awarding of VP Serrano (L-R: HRMO Head Ms. Hermosura, OIC Pres. Ramos, Former VP Serrano, VP Bulos, Former Univ. Sec. Moro, and VP Tabbu)

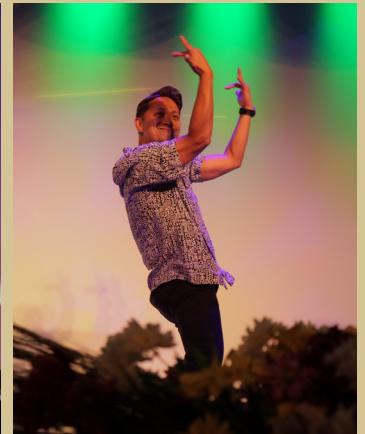
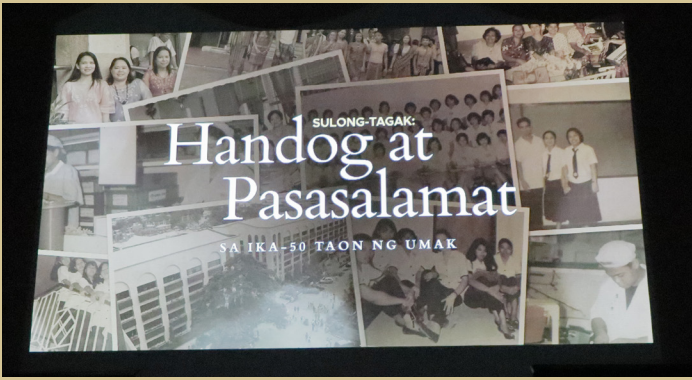
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Manila (RCAM). UMak Through The Years: Gawad Parangal 2022

One of the most awaited events in every UMaK Founding Anniversary celebration is the annual Service Award Ceremony or “Parangal”, an event that marks and celebrates the resonant truth of the university: the vital importance of its personnel. The Parangal 2022 which was held last March 28, 2022, was a glamorous affair befitting UMaK personnel celebrating service milestones. In particular, a total of 105 employees from different colleges, centers, and offices achieved service milestones of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years and the event specifically recognized those who hit the remarkable breakthrough – the retirees. Everyone found themselves in awe of the level of dedication and commitment that these employees have brought to the university for years.

The awardees shining in gold and glitzy outfits, savored the moment as they shared their own pandemic stories with their long-missed colleagues since it was also the first in-person gathering since the time of the pandemic. Before the awarding ceremony, the audience paused for a moment to pay respect to the

dearly departed colleagues whose contributions and memories remain in the hearts of every UMaK employee. As UMaK celebrates its 50th year as an educational institution, it is fitting to honor and recognize the services and expertise of its former leaders, and top executives for their selfless dedication to the university. The event was graced by the presence of Dr. Anita Bustillo, Dr. Raymundo Arcega, Dr. Dalisay Brawner, and Dr. Milagros Lourdes Torres, former members of the Management Committee. The awarding of plaques and certificates of recognition was led by OIC President and concurrent VP for Academic Affairs Prof. Elyxzur Ramos, VP for Administration Atty. Jewel Bulos, VP for Finance Ms. Aurora Serrano, VP for Planning and Research Prof. Ederson Tapia, VP for Student Services and Community Development Prof. Virgilio Tabbu, and University Secretary Engr. Luke Ivan Moro. The nightlong celebration would not be complete without listening to the “Response from the Awardees” which was delivered by VP Aurora Serrano, a 35-year Service Awardee. In her speech, she narrated how she spent all her productive years with the university. She was grateful to the UMaK Management and the City Government of Makati for trusting her to be of service to the university.

Truly, every Service Award and Retirement



Recognition ceremony or “Parangal”, allows everyone to see themselves intimately connected to the institution they serve not just because of the years of services rendered but also because of how the institution has evolved. As VP Jewel Bulos closed the ceremony, she acknowledged the individual contributions of the awardees and challenged everyone to remain true to their commitment they took as faculty, staff, or administrator. To the retirees, she told them that while they are about to leave UMak and recreate themselves in a new environment, they are always free to say, “I was once a part of UMak and will forever be part of its memorable history.”

IGNITING THE FUTURE: Handog at Pasasalamat sa ika-50 Taon ng UMak

Culminating the month-long celebration of the University of Makati’s 50th Founding Anniversary was the Sulong Tagak: Handog at Pasasalamat sa ika-50 Taon ng UMak organized by the Center for Culture and the Arts. Special dance performances from Councilor Jhong Hilario and

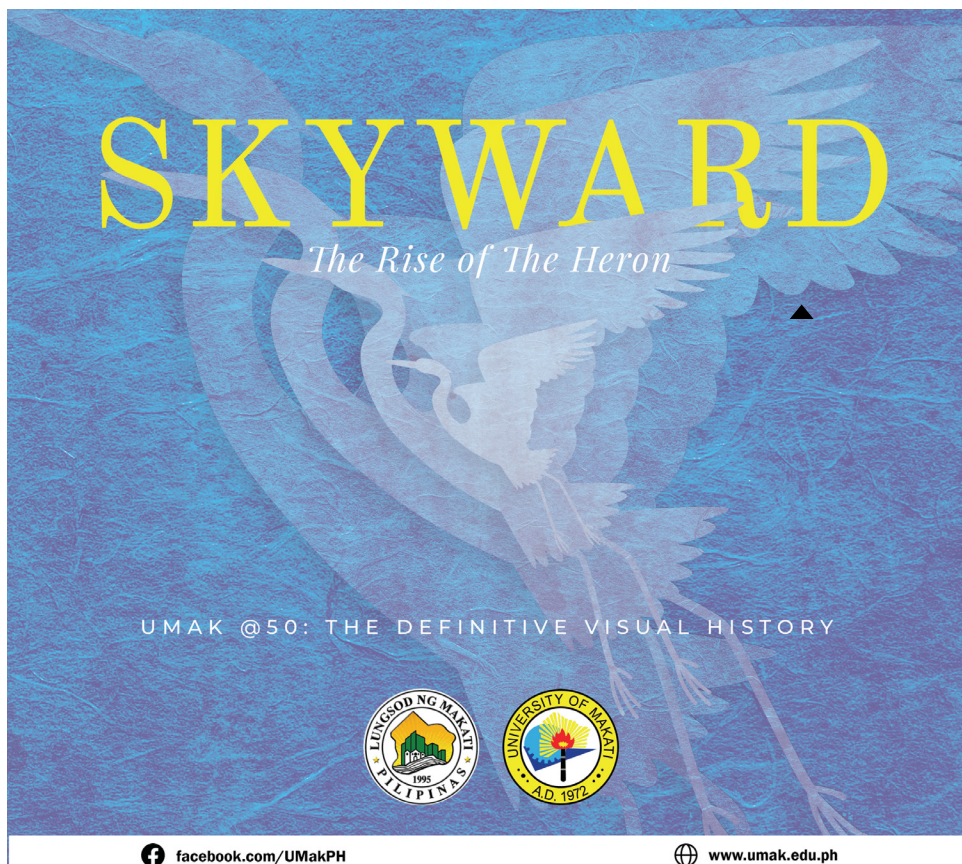
Ms. Phoebe Walker were warmly welcomed with cheers from the UMak Community while Mr. Noel Cabangon’s heartfelt performance serenaded the audience. The program also showcased the outpouring of talents in UMak, different student organizations such as the CCA Ensemble, Siglahi, UMak Chorale, and UMak Dance Extreme graced the UMak Mini-Theater last March 30, 2022, with their stellar performances. As a treat to the UMak community, different academic and administrative offices also took part in the program with their song and dance numbers. Making the program more festive and memorable was the series of song and dance performances from the Management Committee. ###

ON SKYWARD: THE 50TH DEFINITIVE VISUAL HISTORY PROJECT

(FROM THE SPEECH OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE, ENGR. LUKE IVAN B. MORO, FORMER UNIVERSITY SECRETARY AND LEAD OF COFFEE TABLE BOOK PROJECT DURING THE SULONG-TAGAK: HANDOG AT PASASALAMAT SA IKA-50 TAON NG UMAK)

Venturing into the past is an opportunity often overlooked. With the 50th Founding Anniversary of the University fast approaching, the challenge of chronicling its history became an insurmountable duty that only the resilient, devoted, and persevering may succeed.

From pursuing leads of essential and trifling narratives to unearthing documents and photographs before the birth of the digital age, the 50th Coffee Table Book Committee understood the value and urgency of retracing the journey of UMak. From where it is today as a locally funded university, the project marks the golden founding anniversary of the University of Makati by recounting narratives and highlighting its milestones. It serves as a collective recollection of the transformation of a community



^ Cover design of the UMak's 50th Founding Anniversary Coffee Table Book entitled "Skyward: The Rise of the Heron (UMak@50: The Definitive Visual History)

college into a university, and as a reflection of the stakeholders' efforts for UMak.

Leading the crusade was former University Secretary, Engr. Luke Ivan B. Moro. He delightfully shared that his "involvement in the creation of the coffee table book

convinced (him) that indeed, (UMak) has something to celebrate as our past is filled with stories of struggles and triumphs". In his speech at the launching of the coffee table project entitled *Skyward* he identified four key points that gave UMak's history much more meaning as the project



^ VP Moro (Former Univ. Sec) shared his insights on the making of Skyward and teaser video of the Coffee Table Book during the Sulong-Tagak.

progressed.

First was “the importance of a leader and his or her vision”. He carefully explained how UMak’s history can be “divided into two: before TBL and TBL & beyond.” He further explained how the 50-year history of the University, we were blessed with “10 leaders, 8 presidents, and two OICs... Of the seven leaders before TBL, five mattered. These five presidents are Dr. Frederick Pada and Atty. Rodolfo Medina, Dr. Anita Bustillo, Dr. Antonio Orendain, and Prof. Herminio Coloma and then there was TBL who left an indelible mark. At the start of his term, he was quite clear about who and what we are – we are for the children of the less-privileged citizens of the city so they can actively participate and competitively partake in the

city’s economic progress. We have so many firsts during his term – first summa cum laude, first board placers, first win in film competitions, first time to hold graduation in PICC, and so on. TBL never forgets

The second key point was “the importance of time”. Just like the work spent on the coffee table book, UMak’s triumphs are heavily dependent on the gift of time. Engr. Moro shared how “TBL

“I am sure there is a good picture of our old campus lying in some home. But as it is, wala tayu. We need to be more conscientious in captioning the pictures that we take, and properly identifying the persons.”

-Engr. Luke Ivan B. Moro

to thank us for his successes. True, his success is also our success. We rallied behind him and embraced his vision for the university. That is how important a leader is to an organization, especially when the organization is young and still finding its place in the sun.”



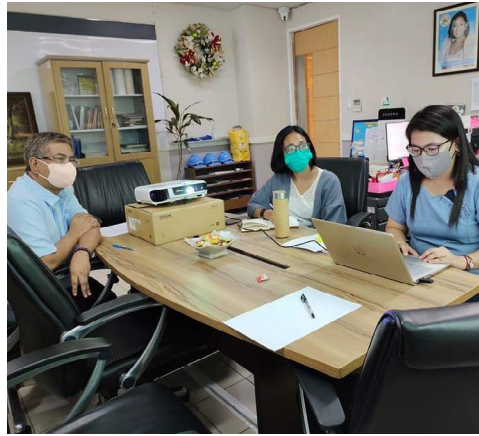
^ Hardbound cover design of Skyward.

was able to achieve so much because he first had to unify the people... we went through storming phase first before we reached the norming and now performing phase if we are to talk about the process of development of a team... But these things take time. “Time heals all wounds,” as they say. It takes time to build trust, it takes time to earn trust. When there is trust, magic happens.

Even TBL acknowledged that he was able to achieve great things because, as he put it, he had a long landing strip. “Binigyan siya ng mahabang runway ng city government, a 19-year long of runway. *Kudos* to VP Binay for trusting him. It speaks a lot also about the vision and commitment of the



^ Multiple review sessions were held to ensure the cohesion and accuracy of the Coffee Table Book content. Drafted articles and lay-outs were regularly monitored and revised by the Coffee Table Book Committee.



^ VP Moro presented the physical copy of Skyward during the initial launch of the Legacy Sculpture. Both projects were created to mark the 50th Founding Anniversary of the University of Makati.

city government to uplift the lives of the children of the less privileged sector in the city through quality tertiary education. With time, there is continuity.”

With this was the third realization which was “the role of the external environment”. Aside from the City Government’s support, he also explained the crucial role of national and regulatory institutions. As much as TBL went above and beyond the restrictions posed by these institutions as “groundwork”, Engr. Moro challenged everyone to “sustain the gains even in small steps”, especially during these times when these institutions’ authority is followed by the University.

Fourth and probably the most challenging, both for the 50th Coffee Table Committee and for future UMak Herons,

was “the need to build our own history”. Sharing his perspective as the lead of the project, he honestly admitted that “we experienced difficulty in creating the coffee table book. The biggest challenge is the scarcity of old pictures. One, we do not even have a good picture of our old campus in Buendia. Yes, we love taking pictures. Filipinos are known for their fondness for taking selfies. But it is more of a portrait with the structure, natural or man-made, as a background...we need to be more future-oriented. *Masyado tayong into the moment. We take pictures, we talk about them, then we forget about it. We fail to appreciate the fact that pictures are artifacts... We’re bad at documenting our activities, and our culture. We need to work on this flaw if we are to ignite our future. We are still a work in progress. We are*

still in the process of building a culture or fortifying a culture that works for us, that will help us design a better future”.

Advocating for a much-needed archiving and chronicling of history as we make it, he also urged everyone to continue rallying behind our OIC President. Just as the coffee table book entitled *SKYWARD: The Rise of the Heron, UMak @ 50: The Definitive Visual History* made the university’s narrative more cohesive than before; he encourages everyone to “continue to build a better UMak... (and) continue to dream together as one organization”.

###

HERALDING HEROIC HERONS

UMak's greatest achievement lies in the excellence and resilience that it inculcates to its students. Whether it is in academics, arts, sports, and technical skills, herons slowly but surely soar their way to the top.

SOARING HIGH - ACADEMICS



MARIEL P. GERONCA, RRT
**TOP 10, MAY 2021 RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY LICENSURE
EXAMINATION**

As the University of Makati celebrates its 50th founding anniversary, it is a great honor to share my experience with the community as this esteemed institution, its program and the professors played a huge role in my achievement, being part of the top 10 Radiologic Technology board passers.

For anyone who has taken any type of licensure examination, the preparation until the actual day is an unnerving experience. Years of hard work in college will lead up to this exam that would determine if you are fit to hold a license to practice your respective profession. Time and how one makes use of it are the most crucial elements in preparing for it. But for us, Batch 2020, the first ones facing this exam in the midst of the global pandemic, we had a lot of questions as to when and how we will take the exams. Hence, there was no doubt that time was difficult to manage to say the least. The situation emphasized how the world and the future was full of uncertainties.

To be completely honest, the frustration from all the delays somewhat gave me even more sheer will to pass. Looking at it in retrospect, my learning experiences in the University of Makati, may it be in the classroom setting or during internship programs, was instrumental in building a strong foundation of skills and knowledge. All of those, coupled with diligence and prayers worked wonders for me. Despite the struggles of reviewing without a review center, I was able to make good use of everything that I have and everything they have taught. Furthermore, our professors never hesitated

in reaching out, answering questions or giving out constant motivation. And for that, I will always remain humbled and grateful.

The College of Allied Health Studies of UMAK gave me not only the knowledge and skills needed to excel in my studies and in my chosen profession, they also inculcated the core values that I always strive to uphold and embody. Moving forward, I have every confidence that my alma mater will continue to provide quality education and produce exemplary students that will become professionals in various fields. ###



ANNE BERNADINE E. DE VERA, RPM
TOP 6, FEBRUARY 2022 PSYCHOMETRICIAN LICENSURE
EXAMINATION

I consider myself to be an average student and I've never expected to become one of the topnotchers for the Board Licensure Examination for Psychologists and Psychometricians (BLEPP). As a transferee from Engineering, I was not eligible to run for honors during my undergraduate degree. Without the pressure of going after academic recognitions, I have realized that having a deeper understanding of one's self and building meaningful

relationships are more important than any quantitative evaluations.

Psychology was not my first choice because coming from a Science High School, I felt pressured to take any program from the hard sciences like engineering. I was only determined to complete this program, but I did not necessarily enjoy what I was doing in Engineering. I wanted to shift programs but I had no idea where I would thrive. I asked my friends if there was a program, they thought would suit me better. "Psychology," one of my closest friends suggested. Finally connecting the dots, I realized that I do enjoy looking into the inner workings of individuals' minds all along.

From then on, I took an interest in Psychology and decided to pursue it at the University of Makati. It was at UMak that I crossed paths with brilliant mentors and peers, which further fostered my interest in Psychology. I realized that when you are genuinely enjoying what you are studying, it will be easier for you to understand it. I was not the traditional book-smart student and I did not take the most comprehensive notes or become the most studious in class, but I enjoyed listening and engaging in my lectures. Thus, studying for the board exams was exceptionally difficult for me. I preferred to study by listening to the lectures and discussions held by my blockmates rather than reviewing quizzes and exams.

The pandemic posed the biggest challenge for me. Studying in a big study hall or with a small group of friends was no longer an option. It was difficult to keep up with my online review classes and read textbooks on my own. I enlisted the help of my friends who were also taking up the board exams

RISE OF THE HERONS

and established a small study group. While we were able to make do with this setup, it was difficult to stay motivated after the board exams got postponed for the second time. I got anxious, thinking my efforts were for naught. It was as if I was riding a wave of good momentum, but it abruptly stopped. This caused me to feel demotivated as ever. Luckily for me, I was able to seek support from the connections and relationships that I have built throughout the years. Aside from this, what truly dissipated my anxiety was the assurance I got from my loved ones and friends. I realized that after this pressure was lifted from my shoulders, I was able to study at a pace that was comfortable for me, and consequently, I started to perform better on my practice drills.

On the day of the board exam, I was anxious because I was not able to sleep well the night before. Although I knew that I will not perfect the exam, I was still overcome with panic with the possibility of failing this subject I was struggling with the most. I was already coming to terms with possibly retaking that subject next year.

The release of the board examination results was delayed. I felt as if my life was on hold, and I was not able to do anything until the results were released. When it was finally announced, I quickly viewed the list of passers and was ecstatic about finally being a Psychometrician. My family had been celebrating for 10 minutes until my brother announced that I am one of the topnotchers in the examination. Up until this day, I still find being a part of the top of the top examinees' list surreal because I really did not expect it. When asked what made this result possible, I explained that it was because of the support I received from my family, professors, mentors, my ayes and kuyas, my blockmates, batchmates, and friends.

Now, I am paying it forward to the University by fulfilling my role as a mentor and offering my services as a Psychometrician to my juniors. At the moment, I am looking into entering Graduate School to be one step closer to realizing my dream to become a Clinical Psychologist. I am grateful to the University, and I believe that my success and any success is a culmination of the combined love and support of everyone. ###



LOUISE EREECA A. ORCA, RN
TOP 9, NOVEMBER 2021 NURSING LICENSURE
EXAMINATION

Exactly a year ago, I took the Philippine Nursing Licensure Exam (PNLE) and did not expect the result to end up being one of the momentous events of my life. I graduated from College of Allied Health Studies - Center of Nursing then, now the Institute of Nursing, at the height of the CoViD-19 pandemic when everything was uncertain. Restrictions to all gatherings were tight, and all board exams schedules were canceled. I was at a crossroads. Should I

continue to review and still take the board exam or not yet? I took the risk of taking the board exam despite an ongoing pandemic. The rest, as they say, is history.

A crucial factor in my decision was the support that my college has given me. I am grateful to the competent professors and clinical instructors who guided me from day one. They made sure that the lectures were relevant and updated. The university has also provided us with excellent facilities that are conducive to learning and are at par with most tertiary hospitals in the country. It helped me prepare for hospital and community deployment and in turn, honed my nursing skills. Our clinical instructors were with us during these rotations to guide and ensure that we get proper hands-on training while rendering safe and quality care to our patients. It further ignited my passion for my chosen profession. It encouraged me to do better because I want to become a competent nurse who can withstand the challenges of the practice, create an avenue to reach out and provide health education to as many people as possible, and a compassionate nurse who leaves a positive impact on my patients. With renewed passion and determination, I endured sleepless nights of arduous studying, chewing up as much information as possible. It was stressful at times, but I held on to my aspirations and kept going every day. My efforts paid off when I saw my name not only on the list of successful November 2021 nursing board exam passers but also in the ninth spot of the top ten list.

This achievement made my parents so proud and it also opened a lot of opportunities for me. Unexpectedly, my TikTok video went viral with millions of views as of this writing. I had been interviewed by various national TV programs like Unang Hirit, HaPinay, and TV Patrol. It was as if it just happened yesterday. People, especially those who are also aspiring to be a registered nurse someday, asked me what was my secret to topping the PNLE. I always say, to enroll in the University of Makati. Your preparation to be a board exam topnotcher starts the moment you step into the gate of UMak. ###

SOARING HIGH - SPORTS

WOMEN REFEREES: MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SPORTS

BY: COLLEGE OF HUMAN KINETICS

With the untapped potential of reshaping the history of basketball refereeing in our nation, the College of Human Kinetics (CHK) embarks on the training and development of students who excel in the

field of basketball refereeing. CHK established the promotion of the basketball cadet referee program as one of its student development initiatives.

One of the earliest students and alumni who embarked on the program was Ms. Edith Botecario. Successfully completing the program, Ms. Botecario served as the deputy commissioner of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines Season (UAAP) Season '82, an international table official, and a referee for the FIBA 3x3 tournament. This project extends its opportunities to the current students from the College of Human Kinetics. As a fourth year BPW student, Ms. Faye Veras

RISE OF THE HERONS



◀ Ms. Edith Botecario is a proud UMac CHK Alumna and a living proof of the success of CHK's basketball refereeing program. She is now a professional basketball referee actively facilitating over different leagues and competitions.

became the third female FIBA referee, the first female to officiate men's UAAP games, an international table official, a FIBA-licensed photographer, and a FIBA 3x3 official.

The College of Human Kinetics recently completed three additional basketball cadet referees who competed in significantly larger sports leagues. Through countless seminars, training sessions, and coaching, these three College of Human Kinetics students excel at basketball refereeing in both national and international sporting events, and have passed the accreditation for referees of the *Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas* (SBP), the country's national federation.

Recently, Ms. Jamela Malate, 21 years old from the 3rd Year Bachelor of Science in Exercise and Sports Science Major in Fitness and Sports Management (BSESS-FSM) brings pride not only to the organization but to the entire nation as she participated and became one of the officials on the recent Fourth Window of the 2023 FIBA World Cup held at the Mall of Asia Arena.

Jamela Malate became a part of the ongoing Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) 3x3 and continues to strive and achieve more in her desired field. Joining her pursuit in the career of basketball refereeing is another student from



▲ Ms. Jamela Malate is one of the current UMac students under the basketball refereeing program.

3rd year BSESS-FSM Ms. Angelique Talplacido, a student cadet in refereeing, is constantly being trained in order to improve and ensure quality in the field of officiating. Angelique Talplacido appears to believe the following quote: "The challenges of officiating are a great motivation and fun... you gotta love it."

Through CHK programs and the unwavering support of the City Government of Makati, the basketball referee cadet program continues to hone the skills and open doors not only for future male but also future female referees. Paying it forward, alumna Coach Editha Botecario and Coach Faye Veras mentor present cadets and inspire them to push beyond their limits.

###

THE MTPLC EFFECT: GRADUATES' SUCCESS STORIES

BY: **ASSOC. PROF. APOLLO F. MAMBIAR, MA**
**CENTER FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS
TRAINING**

Twenty years ago, the Makati City government passed Council Resolution 2001-001 which created the Makati Training, Placement, and Livelihood Consortia (MTPLC). As part of its 20-year development plan of the Makati City Development Council, MTPLC became the consolidating entity of the livelihood and skills training programs of the city. Being one of the training providers of TESDA regulated programs and courses, MTPLC as part of the University of Makati bridges the gap caused by perennial social issues such as out-of-school youths, unemployment, gender inequality, and poverty through providing access to education and certification in various hard skills training programs.

Innovating with the times, Center for Technical Education and Skills Training (CTEST) formerly known as MTPLC finds its success in the transformation of its graduates' lives. Whether they are a college drop-out, a female professional venturing into a male-trade area, or a professional who seeks a career shift, CTEST became a tool for Makatizens who wanted to fully realize their dreams.

Going beyond academics and exploring the opportunities in technical-vocational education, UMaK CTEST's programs and its graduates continue to fulfill its mission to help mold the future builders of this land. ###



One Door Closes But Fortune Always Opens Another

In his early twenties, Mr. Rodel Berdin enrolled in a five-month automotive servicing course offered by the University as a night class conducted from 6:00pm to 9:00pm in 2004. He was a drop-out in one of the bachelor degree programs of the College of Technology Management and at that time, he already accepted the fact that it would be very difficult for him to pursue and finish his college education because of financial difficulties. He needed to have a stable job as soon as possible, and know that he must possess an employable skill to accomplish this. The five months course in automotive was his ticket towards the realization of his goal to be employed. Immediately after his training program, he bagged an opportunity to work as an apprentice at Mercedes Benz in Pasong Tamo, Makati together with his two classmates. Five months in the apprenticeship, he was offered a permanent contract and he worked for Mercedes Benz for another two years. He went on to work in other car dealerships in the succeeding years, honing his technical skills in automotive servicing which he first acquired in the automotive laboratory shop of the University of Makati.



Changing Paths: From Mentee to Mentor to Opportunity Provider

Striving for his dream of migrating, Mr. Lawrence Lerias finished his bachelor's degree and master's degree holder from another state university. After ten years of working for a government controlled bank in his early thirties, he enrolled in a three-month program in welding to make his dream of migrating to Canada come to life. After his training and seeing his potential, he was encouraged by MTPLC instructors to proceed with another TESDA training program designed for instructors and skills assessors - the Training Methodology (TM) level 1. He not just completed the program, but also passed the TESDA certification for instructors.



Being a TESDA certified instructor for welding, he accepted UMak's invitation to handle the training sessions for the Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) NC2. He served as a part time instructor for the SMAW program for more than three years, prior to his departure for Canada. During his stint as an instructor, he was able to bag some projects and contracts locally which he extended to other graduates in SMAW. He secured the contract for the installation of a metal sculpture project which is currently an iconic monument in one of the newest commercial and real-estate developments in Pasig City. Through his projects, the opportunity to earn a living was also presented to his students. He is now a welding fabricator in Canada, now in his fifth year of realizing his goals, for greener pastures as a certified skilled professional.



Moving Beyond Stereotypes

Driven by the urgent need to find a stable job and the challenge of dropping out from senior high school, Ms. Nikko Mae Dumaguit started her journey in one of the heavily male-dominated fields in the tech-voc industry, structural welding. Finishing SMAW under Mr. Lawrence Lerias, she grabbed an offer as a welder fabricator three weeks after her graduation. This is followed by other opportunities such as working in Hanjin Heavy Industries Construction Philippines, and welder in one of the biggest real-estate developers in the country, DMCI. Through her hard work and persistence, Ms. Dumaguit is now working as a welder fabricator in Japan.



▲ Ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Gallery of 50 Herons. (L-R: VP Tapia, former VP Serrano, VP Bulos, AUAL former President, Asst. Prof. Nerona, Former Univ. Sec. Moro, VP Tabbu, and CAA Director, Asst. Prof. Caday)

REMARKABLE alumni herons AWARDS

*EXCERPT FROM RECOGNIZING UMAK
HERONS
BY: ASST. PROF. ILDEBRANDO G. CADAY,
DIRECTOR,
CENTER FOR ALUMNI AFFAIRS*

Validating someone’s contribution to the nation or society is an affirmation of the success of every graduate and the academic institution that has helped them become competent professionals as well as citizens of character. The University of Makati has recognized 50 notable graduates through the RAHA (Remarkable Alumni Herons Awards) just this April 21, 2022 as part of the yearlong event of the University of Makati’s 50th Founding Anniversary. The RAHA aims to honor alumni who exemplify excellence in their respective fields or chosen professions.



The University of Makati would be one of the few universities in the Philippines financing its own RAHA or the Outstanding Alumni Awards. This year, the City Government of Makati through the University of Makati provided PHP 843,500.00, the highest appropriated fund by the City of Makati for alumni events.

Acknowledging these awardees has been initiated by the university through the Center of Alumni Affairs (CAA) in order to bring forth to the community and the university the challenges and the triumphs of our graduates equipped with grit and enthusiasm as they perform in their chosen fields or professions.

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HUMANS OF

UMAK





“I’ve seen UMak as a small fledgling University sa Buendia and then as time passed by, andito na sya... Kumbaga sa graph, tumaas na sya, naglevel up. Ngayon may mga innovation na tayo... ang iniisip nyo hindi lang yan, yung susunod at susunod pa dyan. Ganun na yung naging mindset natin na in a way na ineducate din tayo, hindi lang by school pero by doing the everyday things that we are doing. Dun tayo nagkakaroon ng learning experience.”

MR. ORLANDO P. BENEDICTO

*DIRECTOR,
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICE*

*PRAISE 2021 AWARDEE,
CITY GOVERNMENT OF MAKATI*



DESPITE THE CERTAINTY OF UNCERTAINTY

BY: *Ms. CAMILLE C. NAVARRO & Ms. ICA RAMOS*

Almost like a Kurt Vonnegut short story the main characters walk with one foot over the other, but, this time, going through the stairs and building floors instead of hills and plains, the visible and audible steps of Mr. Orlando Benedicto, or Sir Olan as he is more fondly called, is a presence in our university.

A presence that ensures that each one is one step closer to safety. For Sir Olan, this management by walking comes with a more intended purpose as he ascertains that the community feels safe despite the certainty of uncertainty. He lives and breathes his role as the Occupational Health and Safety Office (OHSO) Head for the University of Makati.

Beyond the Comfort Zone

Seemingly stern, as Sir Olan goes through the stairs and the halls of the university, he does not fail to greet anyone, depending on the time of the day that one sees him.

What is not commonly seen is how the corner of his eyes have already seen a spot that needs tending, or how a scaffold might need further support so as not to cause any accident to those below, or how one of the chairs in the meeting room needs maintaining since the chair rests at an obtuse 110-degree angle.

It appears second nature now, but it was not always so. In his first few years as OHSO head, he admits that he was not immediately comfortable with the new role. It was then



a one-man OHSO army, as he was both the head and manpower of his office. Seeking new ways to grow, he accepted the challenges of his newfound role. In hindsight, several years of his early OHSO experience had been on mitigating disaster though they did not exactly call it that term that time. Vividly, Sir Olan recounted his role as a bell boy - when the winds can hurl umbrellas and the rains pour incessantly, he was the only one authorized to ring the bell that signals class suspension.

Sir Olan, however, is not one to turn his back on someone who needs his help. Eventually, as the list of things to improve grew, and more importantly, things to ensure that the university stakeholders are safe kept getting longer, so did his understanding of the essence of his role.

Great Things Start from Small Beginnings

Grounding himself in humble beginnings, his UMak journey begun in Makati Polytechnic Community College's Buendia Building way back in 1992. An entirely different physical campus then, the opportunity to head the Office of Health and Occupational Safety came in 2013. Prior to that as a rank and file employee, he has initially served the university as part of the utility team, the facilities, and even the supplies and property management office which at one point, a role he

played concurrently with his OHSO supervisory.

“Coming from an ordinary (position) *kasi considered rank and file din ako*, although senior *na ako, siguro makikita rin nila, na kung ganun ang mindset ok, ganun ang isip ko*, (that) UMak is the one providing for what you are now, what you are receiving, *di ba? Andito ba ko kung di dahil sa UMak... 10 years or 6 years pa (baka) magreretire na ako... kaya how lucky am I na (andito) na ako.*”

With the university and city’s utmost support, he enthusiastically pursues trainings that expand his knowledge and understanding on health and safety.

Praises from PRAISE

Bearing the brunt of the pandemic, his supposed shifts turned into regular office hours, sometimes even more than the required hours, since he is one of the very few constants in the University during those times of uncertainty. Recognized in the City of Makati’s Program on Awards Incentives for Service Excellence last December 2021, Sir Olan’s dedication and exemplary service stands out even outside the UMak community. As if personifying the iconic Acacia tree standing guard over the UMak grounds, Sir Orlando “Olan” Benedicto silently watches over his second home through thick and thin.

Seismic Preparations for the BIG ONE

Drop. Cover. Hold.

Scientists mention that our metro is due for the BIG ONE, not a case of if but a when. With that information in mind, and the responsibility juxtapose to it, one wonders how the OHSO head sleeps at night. Luckily for the UMak community, Sir Olan sleeps soundly with a plan ready at hand. Leading the development and



implementation of a ManCom-approved Public Continuity Plan, Sir Olan hopes that through the community’s cooperation, everyone would take part in promoting a culture of safety in the beloved university. A culture of safety where students, teachers, and administrative staff would follow the emergency drills to instill in one’s deep recesses, an instinctive mindfulness and calmness should we, God-forbid, experience the BIG ONE earthquake. He emphasizes how safety and security cannot be achieved “without the help of everybody”.

The Cycle of Gratefulness

Now that the university has reached the gold standard of fifty years, Sir Olan has nothing but gratefulness for his two families- the Benedicto family and the university; his family for understanding the commitment required to do his role; the university for its vision for determining early on the more crucial role OHSO will play through the years, for the trust and support manifested through trainings and approval of the Public Continuity Plan.

Gratefulness for the love that both the university and the city give to employees like him. A love likewise returned by 30 years of service.###

“Having the heart and a mindset of a learner is a very strong reminder that we can do more than what we can imagine.”

- *UNIV. SEC. CARIAGA'S TALK ENTITLED GOLD FEATHERS IN ONE'S CAP: STORIES OF ONE'S EXCELLENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT IN THE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH THE THEME ACHIEVERS' PERSPECTIVES: INSPIRING UMAK'S VISIONS*



**PROF. MARIA FAY
NENETTE M. CARIAGA,
RPH, MSPH, PHD**
*UNIVERSITY SECRETARY,
DEAN, INSTITUTE OF PHARMACY
PRESIDENT, PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION
OF COLLEGES OF PHARMACY
ACADEME REPRESENTATIVE - PRC CONTINUING
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FOR
PHARMACY*

IN THE MIRROR OF THEIR MINDS: THE JOURNEY OF THE COAHS LEADERS AND REFLECTIONS ON THEIR MENTOR

Whether it's waiting all day with biscuits and Zestos in hand during board exams, sharpening pencils of future board takers, or patiently mentoring its students, COAHS, led by its immediate past Dean, Dr. Maria Fay Nenette M. Cariaga, has designed a culture of nurturing excellence, and kindness. From its management, faculty, administrative staff, students, and alumni, quality and caring became constants in their classrooms, processes, and everyday operations.

Since its establishment in 2003 through UMak's offering of a BS in Nursing program as one of Prof. Tomas B. Lopez Jr.'s unique initiatives, the College of Allied Health Studies (COAHS) surely made its way among the top-performing schools in the fields of Nursing, Pharmacy, and Radiologic Technology either by bagging the top spots in licensure examinations year after year or 100% passing rates.

Three of A Kind

Different by design, former COAHS directors and now-current deans of Institute of Nursing and Institute of Imaging Health Sciences, Asst. Prof. AJ Domingo, Asst. Prof. Myna Nerona, and Institute of Pharmacy's Academic and Internship Director (OIC), Asst. Prof. Justine Marie Ocampo found their place in UMak COAHS in varying circumstances. Each guided by Dr. Cariaga, whom they fondly call Dean Nette, during their COAHS journey, they shared how they started

and grew into the leaders that they are in their newly established institutes.

For Asst. Prof. AJ, it was an invitation to shadow a seasoned professor. Perfectly-timed, as he intended to transition to teaching after completing the required nursing practice prerequisite. Almost a decade later, Asst. Prof. AJ continues to mold brilliant *Tagak* minds of the now Institute of Nursing, one of the centers before under COAHS.

A pioneer student of program offering Masters in Radiologic Technology, Asst. Prof. Myna recounts that apart from her interest in the discipline, she attributes her gregarious nature as one of the reasons for being invited to join the teaching profession. Her very professors planted the idea; she contemplated and applied in various schools. The doors of our university opened and through the years more doors of triumphs opened to the now Institute of Radiologic Technology, also one of the former centers under COAHS.

Straight out of hospital pharmacy practice, Asst. Prof. Justine walked into the halls of HPSB hoping she would find her cup of tea. Armed with only an ounce of knowledge about teaching and mentoring and saw these as something transactional, she allowed herself to gradually learn through the collegial interprofessional activities. Encouraging her to continue her teaching, she explained how she became a part of embracing the culture of research and extension, she adds how "...one of the assets of COAHS was its strong leadership."

COAHS Wasn't Built in A Day

Dean Nette, as she is fondly referred to, in her roundtable discussion shared how joining UMak was a journey back to her first love which is teaching but has taken its own course toward something beyond the four walls of a classroom

RISE OF THE HERONS



and into leading COAHS. “Put more rigor back in the college”, was TBL’s challenge to Dean Nette. Considering this a tall order, she proceeded to do a practical organizational diagnosis as an initial step. This eventually led to the forging of the redefined vision, mission, goals and core values of the College which served as the operational framework of COAHS.

Although very vocal with her vision, all of them agree that Dean Nette led COAHS by “sharing her expertise, what to do, what not to do, ginuide kami ni Dean Nette... She is not fond of issuing memos, she’d rather talk to you directly, she’s very open (and) inclusive in everything that we do”. Finding itself at its lowest point in 2014, Asst. Prof. AJ narrates how the 49% passing rate became a challenge and motivation for the Center of Nursing. “*Ang naging main deliverable namin was to increase the board rating, so istrategize everything, ano yung dapat gawin, talagang nitty gritty sa buong proseso. From 49 naging 75, and eventually 90% noong 2015, tas from 2016 until today nag-100% na sya consistently...*”

Adding on to Asst. Prof. AJ, Asst. Prof. Justine explains how “when (one) is surrounded by great leaders, motivators, enablers, and positive thinkers who treat you like family and see the best in you (through) people sharing the same goal...it’s all worth it.”

Examining the Success Recipe:

Improving the Mix

In its early years, COAHS had an open enrollment policy where students were accepted regardless of the school or grades. Following an input-output analysis, despite the said policy, the university’s ratings in licensure examinations were frequently way above the national passing average, if not 100%. Furthermore, several board takers were placers. “there was definitely something right in the process”, Asst. Prof. AJ shared.

Research and extension, with interprofessional education (IPE), were among the endeavours taken upon by former COAHS. Asst. Prof. Justine mentions how “...through the initiatives of Dean Nette and the other college officials, they started with simple research presentations through the Research Congress, to the crafting of research agenda and research manual. Now, our students and faculty members are presenting locally, nationally and internationally and are working to publish their outputs in acclaimed journals as we speak” which allowed the college to embrace the culture of research among its faculty and students.

Apart from the well-defined curricular delivery and thus, learning outcomes, they also credit UMAK’s affiliation to hospitals and other host-training establishments (HTEs) to the success of all the passers and placers. Budget-wise, it may seem to steep, as the fees are the budget of

the three centers. They have tempered it this 2023, choosing only to partner with hospitals who agree to their stipulated fee. Likewise, a more optimal arrangement with the *Ospital ng Makati* (OSMak), the government-run hospital, was determined. Yet, partnership with private hospitals cannot be removed since the strength of both private and government hospitals must be experienced by the students.

Sharpening the Tool

One of the traditions and rituals of the students prior to taking the board exams is the sharpening of the tool. The pun is perfectly intended, as the literal sharpening of their pencils is the outward sign of the inner reality of being given the blessing to do well in the exams as they figuratively sharpen their knowledge on the discipline.

Armed with food, water, and words of comfort on the actual exam day, the RadTech faculty scatter all over the metro, depending on where the students are assigned as a sign of their utmost support. Once the exams are done, the familiar supportive faces of the faculty are eagerly waiting.

During board exam days, true to her genuine love for the students, she would constantly follow-up and ask for updates from the professors onsite on how the alumni were faring and feeling towards their performance. Texts upon texts she sends, allowing the students to feel that she, the Dean of the College, is there herself supporting and keeping the students in her prayers for success.

For the Institute of Nursing, Day 1 of the students' fourth year lives begins with a the tradition of a reminder; that since 2016, Nursing graduates have always passed the

exams. There is a call to action from the batch, to keep the flame alive, to not break the tradition. The same is true for the Institute of Pharmacy, 100% should always be the goal.

Keeping the Connection

Going beyond board passing rates, the college found its strength in building rapport with its alumni. Asst. Prof. AJ explained how “...*dun magiging proud yung alumni...(at sasabihin) na I'm from UMak (kapag) nakita nyang performer yung kanyang school...*” Reaching out to their alumni to inspire the students, they happily shared how the toppers and almost all alumni not only perform excellently in their fields but willingly want to give back to the UMak COAHS community by sharing their professional knowledge, practice experiences and time. “*Sa COAHS ang kultura, after they graduated from UMak, ginaguide pa rin natin sila...* From the Dean (Dr. Cariaga), their professors, alumni, *andun ang support, at nararamdaman ng mga bata yun...*” Fully realizing their growing strength, in the 2022 Clinical Graduation, White Coat Ceremony, Pinning Ceremony, and Recognition Rites, Dean Nette proudly shared how, because of these notable accomplishments, COAHS became “a mainstream college, and thus, almost free allied health education was provided to new and even existing students... (It became) an instrument for the greater good, common good”.

In the mirror of their minds, Dean Nette reflects strength, safety, and security. As the former Dean of COAHS braves the whole new worlds of independent institutes and new designation as University Secretary, her former mentees are now enveloped by these very strength, safety, and security which she inculcated in her students and colleagues alike in what was once COAHS.

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“I believe that everything happens for a purpose... Being the president during its golden anniversary so I feel very proud about it... Nakita ko talaga yung transformation ng University. Moving forward, sinasabi ko nga, marami pa tayong pwedeng igaling pa. There are still a lot of areas we need improvement on.”

PROF. ELYXZUR C. RAMOS,
CESE, PhD

OIC PRESIDENT

CONCURRENT VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



PURPOSE IN MOTION: LEADING UMAK TOWARDS THE AGE OF INTERNATIONALIZATION

By: Ms. ICA RAMOS AND Ms. CAMILLE C. NAVARRO

As Crossroads Lead to Opportunities

There may have been an abundance of plans in his youth but none of those was on a path to pursue education.



Our OIC President and concurrent VPAA, Prof. Elyxzur Ramos, or Sir X as he is more fondly called in the university recounts a crossroad in his life that transformed him into an educator. He was in the food industry 21 years back, working as a manager in one of the top quick-service restaurants in the country. A restaurant strategically located in the heart of the metro where the weekend foot traffic triples by the number. Unfortunately (or perhaps, fortunately), his classes for the masters were also more intense come weekends, requiring Sir X to be on frequent weekend leaves.

Inevitably, Sir X had to leave the role for further studies. The OIC President recounts that it was not a tough decision; the priority was finishing his further studies.

Two Birds with One Stone

As he continued his education, more doors



opened as he was offered to teach part-time in Colegio de San Juan de Letran. Several of his professors were his professors even back in his undergraduate years. Part-time turned to full-time as one colleague resigned and he was encouraged to take his place. Our OIC President also succumbed to the beautiful and ever-evolving process of teaching and learning, transforming into an educator through and through.

Another Pivotal Moment

Though happy with being an educator in Letran, he was ripe to explore another organization. After all, likened to a quote by Spencer Johnson, one of his favorite books, *Who Moved My Cheese*, “movement in new direction finds new cheese”.

That new cheese did not take long. In one party among fraternity brothers, he met then-former VP Jejomar Binay who asked him why he was teaching at Letran and not at the University of Makati (UMak).

Out of courtesy to former VP Binay, he decided to pay the university a visit; the President back then was Professor Tomas B. Lopez, Jr., fondly called TBL in the community. The visit was another pivotal moment for Sir X, and in a fashion likened to Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*, would determine the answer to “Leave or not to leave Letran?”

Selling an experience was not the buzzword that it is 21 years back, but, as the OIC President stepped the UMak doors, though TBL was not around, he was sold an experience of a warm welcome. Then SPMO staff, Sir Olan Benedicto, now the head of the Occupational Health and Safety Office (OHSO) greeted him and gave him a tour of the office. Dr. Ramos vividly remembers Sir Olan saying “*Ito yung table po ninyo. Ito ang*

iyong upuan...”.

The Shakesperean *Hamlet*-inspired soliloquy of our OIC President was answered.

X Marks the Spot

When asked how Sir X feels about UMak reaching its fifty years, he beams with pride with what the university has achieved along with being part of its 21-year story. “It would be forever etched in UMak’s history that I was the University President in UMAK’s golden year.”

He took stock of the time when the university would be considered as the last resort. The latest admission numbers tell a different story since from 10,000 applicants, UMak could only accommodate 3,000 new students.

Similarly, the journey to his spot as president, was a journey marked with varied experiences, beginning as a staff from then President TBL’s office, to serving as his Executive Assistant, to championing the Dual University Education System (DUES), which for then President TBL, was the necessary formula to ensure that the graduates of UMAK get hired by industry, the logic being, since industry trained the students, consequently, the industry would directly hire the students.

Championing the DUES vision to the faculty (factoring in the level of swiftness TBL needs when it comes to implementing his ideas) and increasing the partnerships through the years led him to also become the Dean of several colleges- CBFS, CEPDA, and even Allied Health Studies. Eventually, the need to house all the partnerships in one office was identified, along with it the movement as University Secretary. From USec, he became the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

As TBL passed on, UMak also had to maintain

stability, and the OIC also had to carry on the proverbial cross that marks the X. He was steadfast in the acceptance of this role, as his years of experience with his mentor, Prof. Lopez, mentored and prepared him for it. Sir X recounts “For one to climb up the ladder, one needs a good mentor”. All due credit given to his former mentor, he calmly responds to the challenge, comprehending that regardless of the pressure that may come his way, one must maintain coolness and collectedness.

Taya: Putting Something Valuable at Stake

Our OIC President measures the university’s impact by not just putting one valuable thing in his life at stake but by putting three dearly treasured jewels in his life at stake – his wife and two children. His wife took up her second degree in nursing in UMak while his eldest daughter, despite passing the admission exams of the big three universities in the country, obeyed his wishes and took up Pharmacy at our university. His eldest son is now in his second year as a nursing student. “*Kailangan may taya*”, he said this with conviction in his speech for the 50th Founding Anniversary kick-off month and truly, he walked the talk. The testament needed to prove how much he trusts the programs at our university as demonstrated by the enrollment of all three family members.

Our OIC President gives back to the family by spending weekends in a most treasured manner – cooking for the family. The side most of us may not be privileged to see is how Sir X is certified by the Culinary Federation of America. As a certified chef, he shakes off being the president by marketing and cooking gustatory delights for his family.

Community Efforts in Establishing a More “Giving Back” Culture from the Alumni

He dares wish too that the spirit of the university’s community can help improve the level of love for the university that our alumni give back to UMak. The true measure he looks for is if the alumni willingly give time and talent back to the university. If alumni visit the halls, if alumni share their time by talking about how much the university molded them into practicing their current craft, it would be another measure of university success.

That does not mean though that he does not experience it *poco a poco*, little by little. On one flight to a different part of the country, he would be approached by the flight attendant who would proudly said, “You were the dean when I was a student at UMak” coupled with food usually reserved for those flying business class. A stroll in the mall with family would mean several stops, as former students also approach and share their lives with him and his family.

Projecting His Legacy

The University is working on institutional recognition (IR) as our OIC President envisions UMak to be the first local university to qualify in the world rankings. The moment we receive our IR, the university would push to become a center of excellence that eventually expands and transforms to becoming one of the schools listed in the world rankings.

It may seem farfetched at the moment, but he dares to dream it, believing that we will reach it through the university’s collective soul. What may have begun as a crossroad is now a defined X, a defined X that marks his spot, his challenge for the community, and his legacy for the University of Makati. ###

“I really relish the idea that what we do has some palpable contributions to the lives of people. I’m privileged, I’m lucky because I work in an area where you can actually do things and you can see the results immediately...You get to help people in government, craft, implement, and innovate on programs that can work for the people.”



**PROF. EDERSON DT. TAPIA,
PHD, DPA**

*VICE PRESIDENT FOR PLANNING & RESEARCH
DEAN, COLLEGE OF CONTINUING, ADVANCED, AND
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
VICE PRESIDENT,
PHILIPPINE SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION*

WAYFARING IDEOLOGIES THROUGH CCAPS: CHANGING THE EDUCATIONAL LANDSCAPE, ONE PROGRAM AT A TIME

BY: Ms. CAMILLE C. NAVARRO AND Ms. ICA RAMOS



The Commitment to Praxis

It is said that our ideals guide us. Likened to the captain of a ship that weathers strong winds, Prof. Ederson DT. Tapia, or Dean Ed to his colleagues at the College of Continuing, Advanced, and Professional Studies (CCAPS), our Vice President for Planning and Research and concurrent Dean of the CCAPS has served the University for 23 years with his firm grasp on his educational philosophy of praxis. Ideals allow captains to weather through the strong winds of life to reach their destination while learning as much as they can through the journey. Being a long-haul educator with a vision towards innovation, he explains that “For the longest time, especially in my field, we (TBL and I) talked about the disparities between theory and what’s happening on the ground. I committed my whole educational philosophy along the idea that we have to break the walls that separate the academe from the real world.” VP Ed believes that educators have the responsibility of being cognizant of what is truly happening on the ground.

Molting: On Ruffling and Shedding Feathers

Any changemaker worth his salt will tell you that any successful effecting of change will ruffle

feathers, and for VP Ed, the experience was no different. As is the nature of learning institutions, innovations may initially face resistance or even rejection from both ends of the academe. Yet, if one’s ideals are resolute, and in this case, his belief in seamless integration between the classroom and into the workplace, setbacks are just springboards for praxis to become a reality. For the university, these happened when they tinkered with the College of Governance and Public Policy (CGPP) programs which eventually became a reality through CCAPS.

Shedding and regrowing one’s feathers, the university finds itself in a position of transition through the establishment of CCAPS. Recalling the whys of CCAPS, VP Ed explained that the college was named as such because it’s “... Advanced since it was a graduate school program, professional since it was designed for professionals, and continuing since there were programs designed just for short-term training”. Describing his experience in his roles, VP Ed shares how he “...really relish(es) the idea that what we do has some palpable contributions to the lives of people. I’m privileged, I’m lucky because I work in an area where you can actually do things and you can see the results immediately...You get to help people in government, craft, implement, and innovate on programs that can work for the people”.

The CCAPS program of the University boasts

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graduates from different parts of the country. Empowering local government units, especially those from marginal areas, means a lot to VP Ed as a scholar of public administration specifically working in the area of local government.

Although misidentified before for another local university, VP Ed finds joy in the fact that when “you speak of UMaK from as far north as Aparri, as far south as Tawi-Tawi, we have graduates... and they’re occupying positions of leadership in their respective organizations”.

Completely supportive of the OIC President’s vision of “upping the ante” as VP Ed puts it, the goal towards being part of the World University Ranking is such a “tall order”, he sees it as an opportunity that should inspire and motivate everyone in the community. “Going global”, he says, “means that the university is improving”. His recent accomplishment of being elected as the Vice President of the Philippine Society for Public Administration is one of the proofs that the University is not only recognized by other institutions but also desired and sought after. He further explains that “(t)he fact that we have been voted by our peers to occupy that position is a testament to the fact that they respect the University. How does that work for us, we are respected members of the Public Administration community composed of scholars, practitioners, and students as well. So, more than being a metaphor on our place in the universe of Public Administration education, i think it is testament



really to the fact that we have arrived”.

This would also once again translate to the commitment to praxis, as the university subjects itself to an outside accrediting body, the readiness for this goal may also mean being attuned to the needs of the global workplace.

Navigating the Terrain Through the Years

Keeping his equilibrium in check while fulfilling his duties, he makes sure to give time to listen to the great classics of jazz, read the literature on history or philosophy, and spend quality time with his kids. He recommends Haruki Murakami’s *Colorless*, Tsukuru Tazaki’s *His Years of Pilgrimage*, or listening to jazz artists such as Ella Fitzgerald and Sara Vaughn as a must.

As he shares his joy in the service, one is reminded of how Ella Fitzgerald is described as a singer: the tone sounds crisp, and the articulation is perfect. Oddly, as one types his thoughts from the interview, Ella’s rendition of the song Dream a Little Dream of Me plays in the mind. If one is willing to indulge, one can sing the quote to the melody.

Apart from his gusto for jazz music, VP Ed explains the pride and joy in being part of the University’s 50th anniversary history. “I’m extremely proud that I am affiliated with UMaK. The fact that I can say it, to me, means something because that was not the case when I joined in 1999. I’m happy that we’ve reached fifty years... we’ve had our share of fallouts but the fact that we reached fifty years is a testament to how we’ve managed ourselves to become useful but pretty valuable in the landscape of education...”.

###

“Kung para sa iyo, para sa iyo. I am not referring to the prestige of the title Junior President, but if you were given the chance to effect genuine change to a greater number of people, then I will never fail. This is for those who have trusted me, and for those whom I would pledge my service, with or without them knowing.”



MR. GIL I. ARCOS

*CIVIL ENGINEERING ALUMNUS,
1ST PRESIDENT - JUNIOR ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES 2021
PRESIDENT - UNIVERSITY STUDENT COUNCIL
2021*

“I NEVER IMAGINED THAT IN THIS LIFETIME, I WILL LEAD...”

BY: ASST. PROF. JOHN DAVID L. AYSON

This is the story of Mr. Gil Arcos, a Civil Engineering student and Junior Association of Local Colleges and Universities (ALCU) President of 2021. Since the beginning of his college journey, he has been active in the Council, both for the College of Construction Sciences and Engineering and the University of Makati. One word truly represents this journey of his: humility, knowing that we will always have our own time. His very first year of serving the council was at the College level, full of uncertain endings. He began as a volunteer in his 1st year, eager to learn the authentic way, regardless of the position. Deemed worthy through his genuine intentions and contributions, he became the 2nd Year Representative of CCSE in his Sophomore year. The accumulated years were never easy, but trusting the true process to leadership has been worth everything. In his third year, he served as the President of the Student Council, University-wide, along with communicating the actual situation of the students' welfare as the Student Regent.

“Actually, it was in the latter stages of my student life when I realized that leadership is far more important than how I set to be. I even thought of praying to God that in another life, to guide me in this path that I would never deviate. Given everything that transpired, I guess I do not need to wait for another lifetime...”. This defines him and his legacy, culminating with the zenith of his life as a student leader. Etched in the history of ALCU and of UMak as well, the very first National President of Junior ALCU (Batch 2021 - Makisig) is Mr. Gil Arcos. “The University is truly a home



of great leaders and visionaries, serving as the ripple of change of other LCUs in the country“. He has proven that UMak Herons as “Future Builders of this Land“ is not only an idea, it is our NORM, it is our OATH, it is an eternal PROMISE. This is the promise that Mr. Arcos lives up to in this lifetime.

In the concluding stages of Mr. Arcos' interview, he was to give an inspirational message to the future student leaders of UMak. “On behalf of all the herons, we could not have it any other way. *Kung gumawa ka man ng mabuti o masama sa kapwa mo, may masasabi at masasabi sila sa iyo, kaya piliin natin na gumawa ng tama. Itama nating ang ating pakakamali.* You have to lead, even if it hurts, even if nobody believes in you. Succumbing to the pain will lead me astray from reasons why I have started this journey. Leading can truly be painful, but remember to choose your battle and love your people”.

###

UMak's Golden Jubilee

UNIVERSITY OF MAKATI'S 50TH FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHTS



March 01
Opening Salvo



March 05
Media in the Digital World Seminar Series



March 15
Virtual Career Forum



March 30
Handog at Pasasalamat sa ika-50 Taon ng UMak



April 12
FORESIGHT CONFERENCE:
Challenging Frontiers Towards Future-Thinking



April 21
Remarkable Alumni Heron Awards 2022



May 27
Alab ng Ginto at Pagpupugay

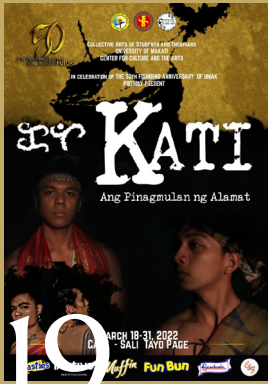


May 30
COMPO & COPY: A Collection of Composition and Copy



August 26
A.C.H.I.E.V.E UMak Seminar Series

Celebrating Our Past, Igniting the Future



March 19
KATI: Ang Muling Pagpagaspas ng Ilong Taga-Kati



March 22
Ceremonial Turnover of Tablets
Groundbreaking Ceremony of Legacy Sculpture



March 28
UMak Student Handbook Launch



May 04
University Job Fair



May 06
Herons' Night: Ignite the Night



May 25
Herons' Heroes Award 2022



August 31
Annual University Convocation



September 22
Herons Welcome 2022



October 05
PAGDAPO: Unveiling Legacy Sculpture Series

DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR UMAK

THE PARTY THAT LAUNCHED A THOUSAND PARTNERSHIPS

By: Ms. CYNTHIA MARGARETTA R. JOSE, MBA

CENTER FOR LINKAGES, CAREER DEVELOPMENT, AND PLACEMENT

In early 2000, the Binay administration ushered in the new millennium by bringing someone outside the education sector to take over the reins of running a then 28-year-old University of Makati (UMak). The timing couldn't have been more perfect because back then, the university needed to reinforce the foundations erected by previous administrations by defining and characterizing what it stood for. It needed to be steered towards a direction that would distinguish itself from other public schools yet remain largely significant to the City of Makati (UMak OUSec-Center for External Resources and Institutional Networking, 2019).

The Non-Traditional Educator

That responsibility reluctantly fell into the hands of the 7th UMak President, Tomas B. Lopez, Jr., a street-smart entrepreneur and marketing consultant in great demand in business and political circles both here and abroad. In those days, many UMak graduates were unemployed, underemployed, or mismatched. This was a cause for concern because ultimately, the best gauge for the success of an educational institution is the ability of its graduates to be employed in jobs most suitable to their educational qualifications. Sadly, it wasn't so for many UMak alumni.

So, as TBL always enjoyed recounting, he threw a

party - a party for HR and personnel managers. As they enjoyed the gustatory treats, he inquired each one why they weren't hiring UMak graduates. There was only one answer - UMak graduates weren't qualified!

It was a slap on the face but instead of arguing with them, UMak took a step back to strategize. Rather than allow such a perception from the industry to beat UMak, UMak invited the industry to equip its students with the competencies that the industry was looking for - a twist of the classic "If you can't beat them, join them!" strategy that only TBL could have thought of. And so UMak began to partner (Lopez, Jr., 2018).

That little party, held year after year, became the springboard of what is now called the Industry Partner's Recognition Day or the IPRD. This is supported by two other university-wide events, the career forum and the university job fair.

RISE OF THE HERONS



Celebrating the Past while Cheering for the Present

Much has been done and there is every reason to celebrate UMak's 50th year and the IPRD's 22nd year. While the total number of UMak partners could have easily reached over a thousand especially with the concerted efforts led by President Lopez and the Binay administration since 2000, the actual number of documented partnerships from March 1995 to October 2022 is 521 signed contracts.

Today, the number of UMak alumni who are gainfully employed improved tremendously. As with most

HEIs, internships comprise the biggest chunk of academic linkages in UMak. An exploratory study prepared by the University Research Center in collaboration with the OJT and Placement Services Center examined the feedback of internship training supervisors on the strengths and weaknesses of OJT students for academic years 2017 to 2018 and 2018 to 2019 across six colleges.

The study supported previous research showing that soft skills are increasingly recognized as being the more important attributes that students need to be

employed and to become successful in their careers. UMak students were able to demonstrate soft skills during their training that employers value, topmost of which were reliability, professionalism/integrity, and communication. These desirable attributes help secure employment.

The study also hinted that the quality of professional relationship between the trainee and the supervisor may influence the development of soft skills (Moro, Delos Santos, & Medenilla, 2021), all the more reason to strengthen collaborative and harmonious linkages that will support a



From a vision to a tradition emulated by other schools in developing collaboration and camaraderie between and among academe and industries.

Amidst the pandemic, UMak continues to honor the yearly IPRD tradition that he started (UMak OUSec-Corporate Communications Center, 2022), elevating his legacy of partnership building. Within the next 50 years, the party's ripple effect will launch not just a thousand partnerships but thousands upon thousands of jobs for Filipinos to thrive here and abroad!

###

well-rounded educational environment for student learners.

Igniting the Future

In the next few years, UMak envisions a more ambitious linkages strategy. More than just home-based, it must progress cross-border to accommodate the market shift towards internationalization and the so-called Fourth Industrial Revolution, fast-tracked by the global health crisis. While employability is still key, UMak graduates must be able to more successfully enter both

domestic and international labor markets equipped with global perspectives and adaptable mindsets, facilitated and supported by diversified and multicultural academic affiliations.

UMak's "coming-out" party has come a long way from its impromptu beginnings to a party that has launched nearly a thousand partnerships; a vision that drove the university leaders to be staunch soldiers of a worthy cause - ensuring our graduates can launch their careers in the industry landscape.

PAYING IT FORWARD: ADOPT-A-COMMUNITY PROGRAM TOWARDS THE DELIVERY OF SUSTAINABLE EXTENSION PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

BY: MR. NIÑO E. FAUSTINO, EDD,
DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN NATION BUILDING

The Center for Community Development in Nation Building (CCDNB) envisions molding the community with responsible and productive citizens through the implementation of various sustainable community development programs that will contribute to nation-building. These sustainable programs pertain to the seven (7) key areas of community development related to health, education, environment, entrepreneurship, safety, recreation, morale of the citizenry, and other social welfare concerns.

By virtue of Executive Order No. 03 Series of 2022 dated April 12, 2022 signed by the Honorable Mayor Mar-Len Abigail S. Binay, the Makati Social Welfare Department (MSWD) and the University of Makati-Center for Community Development in Nation Building (UMak-CCDNB)

had formally engaged into a partnership to implement measures for improving the delivery of social services through the academic service-learning of different colleges, centers and institutes of the university. Corollary to this, the University Management approved the comprehensive plan of CCDNB by virtue of EXCOM Resolution No. 2022-098 to cluster the different program stakeholders in providing sustainable extension services vis-à-vis the seven (7) key areas of community development. The program stakeholders are mandated to align their extension activities anchored on the academic skills or expertise of their students and faculty.

In collaboration with the Makati Social Welfare Department (MSWD), the Center for Community Development in Nation Building (CCDNB) was given the privilege to adopt the extended communities of the City of Makati where the informal settlers of this city were relocated to Dreamland Ville, Barangay Kaypian, San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan, and Makati Home Ville, Barangay Dayap, Calauan, Laguna. Furthermore, the said partnership endeavor is also extended to cater to other vulnerable segments of society from the different MSWD



^ Dr. Niño E. Faustino, CCDNB Director, spearheaded the post-evaluation activity with the various extension coordinators after community visitation at Makati Home Ville, Barangay Dayap, Calauan, Laguna.



^ Community Teaching Program was facilitated by the College of Education to almost 50 schoolchildren of Makati Home Ville. The activities include storytelling and arts literacy.



^ Prof. Ambrosio Yalong and Prof. Margarita Paulmitan of the College of Business and Financial Studies (CBFS) while conducting a training workshop on proper product packaging and marketing strategies for the constituents of Makati Home Ville last September 28, 2022.



^ The youth of Makati Home Ville are in their happy moments with the recreational activity facilitated by the College of Human Kinetics (CHK)



^ The College of Construction Science and Engineering (CCSE) while conducting the facilities assessment as part of their academic service learning at Makati Home Ville last August 18, 2022.



^ Banana Chips Making is one of the entrepreneurial activities facilitated by the extensionists of the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management (CTHM).



^ Some professors from the College of Science explained the value of Tree Planting to the youth of Makati Home Ville.



^ Daycare Pupils of Makati Home Ville enjoying their food sponsored by CONCERCLE of the College of Arts and Letters (CAL).



^ Dr. Niño E. Faustino, CCDNB Director, spearheaded the post-evaluation activity with the various extension coordinators after community visitation at Makati Home Ville, Barangay Dayap, Calauan, Laguna.

centers or shelters are Makati Youth Home, Social Development Center, and the organized community of Makati.

Through the concerted effort of the different extensionists/extension coordinators and extension service advocates, this Adopt-A-Community Program made several projects and activities for the benefit of the constituents of Dreamland Ville and Makati Home Ville. Some of the sustainable extension projects that have been implemented in said communities through the collaboration of different colleges, institutes and centers are Community Teaching Program for School Children, Financial Literacy Program, Sports Clinic Program, Facilities Improvement and Assessment Program, Livelihood, Entrepreneurial and Marketing Strategies Program, Environment Conservation

Program and Psychosocial Intervention Program and Project Kaagapay: Ang Unang Yugto ng Komunikasyon. Furthermore, other programs are still in the preparatory phase since the gathering of data through interviews and focus group discussions from the constituents of said adopted communities were just completed last August 18, 2022 and October 6, 2022.

The funding source of those programs that have been implemented was derived from the 2022 Annual Investment Plan of the University of Makati under the account of Community Extension: School-Based Development Programs wherein 91.33% of the budget utilization rate had been recorded as of September 30, 2022.

###

THE HEART TO SERVE FOR THE FUTURE BUILDERS

BY: *MEDICAL AND DENTAL OFFICE, CENTER FOR GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING SERVICES, AND MR. JERROM E. ABAINZA*

The unprecedented global health crisis marks the advent of a new normal. The concerns of the UMak community grew from treatment of headaches, colds, and flus to questions of survival, leading students, faculty, and administrative staff to repeatedly inquire quarantine measures even for the most minor symptoms in order to prevent the potential spread of the deadly virus to their family members. The emergency caused major

campus disruptions. The scope of the Medical and Dental Clinic Office (MDO) services which were usually treatment of student and employees' illnesses has been transformed to supporting the CoViD-19 emergency field operations inside and outside UMak when the pandemic happened.

Call of Duty

Back in 2020, with everyone possibly exposed to CoViD-19, the lockdowns continued to strain the psychological, physical and economic conditions of the community. To make matters worse, the healthcare systems were still evolving and yet to be established. Despite this, as members of the medical profession, the MDO were called to the frontline to fight the CoViD-19 outbreak. It takes incredible mental strength and intellectual acuity to consistently be full

of composure in the midst of this vocational pressure. The MDO made a concerted effort to address the increasing number of issues that university stakeholders encountered considering their dedication to their profession and genuine love for their patients.

Armed with the heart to serve, the MDO joined the Makati City CoViD-19 Command Post, increasing the capacity of government response to the public health emergency. There they learned good practices in containing and managing the spread of the coronavirus such as the Prevent-Detect-Isolate-Test-Treat strategy, which they adopted for the university.

Immediately, the MDO made their services available via teleconsultation. They responded to inquiries about health and at the same time collaborated with the local government for contact tracing and implementation of effective quarantine and proper isolation of CoViD-19 patients. Innovating through utilizing online tools, various services such as enrollment forms, employee attendance, among others were implemented to reduce interaction among individuals and avoid virus



^ The Medical and Dental Office continued to offer services to the UMak community.

transmission within the university. Understanding the extent of the CoViD-19's impact, MDO also advocated for university personnel seeking work exemption due to physical and psychological consequences of contracting the virus. In all of this, the MDO became the indispensable link in providing necessary support to the UMak community and mitigating other health risks and hazards caused by the pandemic. The warmth of their service clothed each person's cold reality.

To this date, the MDO has served 1,319 patients via online medical consultations and 10,785 students were provided various medical and dental services since the government approved the return to limited face-to-face classes.

Braving the Mental Health Challenges

Aside from the MDO, the CoViD-19 pandemic compelled the Center for Guidance and Counselling Services (CGCS) to confront a distressing reality: one of three CoViD-19 patients in the Philippines was diagnosed with a mental health condition within six months of testing positive for CoViD-19. In addition, the Department of Health's (DOH) data revealed that at least 3.6 million Filipinos

experience mental health problems.

The rest of the CGCS team responded to this trend. They saw this as a chance to lift the stigma surrounding mental health problems. They conducted a series of seminars exposing truths about mental health and mental health issues which became rampant in the time of pandemic and created a strong social support system as part of their spiritual and values enhancement program.

According to the team, the first step to resolve a growing rate of disorder is to acknowledge it. This means to improve

open to the idea that mental illnesses are not something to be ashamed of.

Championing Personality Development

CGCS has also created a non-academic student organization that promoted the positive well-being of the students namely the Peer Facilitators Association (PFA). The PFA designed peer activities that foster communication among its members to facilitate personal growth and healing. The members had been given an avenue to narrate their stories in groups, which had been found by many to be

“Now that I am here, I learned that UMak Peers is my second family. Why? Because here in the organization, no one will judge and hate you. They would treat you nicely as a valued person and even guidance counselors considered me as part of their family. In the guidance office, no one gets left behind, everyone is a ‘family’.”

- Ferdinand M. Oczon (ION, 4B-BS Nursing)

mental health we need the public to dispel the prejudice about mental disorders and encourage empathy, sense of belongingness, and confidence instead. Consequently, the series of seminars helped and continue to help the university stakeholders become more

therapeutic.

Based on the testimonies of the participants, the initiative made a lasting impact because it enabled them to access psychological services for free. Without which, no intervention for their mental health during this crisis could be afforded

RISE OF THE HERONS



^ Guidance Counsellors together with UMaK Peers. Photo courtesy of University Student Media Organization (USMO).

considering that the treatment and counseling in the country are still expensive. This is despite the Republic Act No. 11036, otherwise known as the Mental Health Act, was signed into law on June 20, 2018. Through the center, the number of students who can access such essential services rose from 120 for 2021 to 268 for the year 2022.

Currently, the CGCS is working to produce mental health policies and recommendations that will be included into college curricula. There is also continuous conversation about hiring or collaborating with more mental health experts, and benchmarking of best practices across institutions. All of this is done to provide a comprehensive mental health system for the university, empowering the Herons to brave the pandemic and fulfill their destiny as the nation's future builders.



^ Reach Out Kumustahan with UMaK Athletes conducted last July 2022.

Centennial Learners: School and Continuity Recovery Plan

The Higher School ng UMaK (HSU), on the other hand, sets the ideal direction to guide how the university will transition from teaching into the new normal so that no learners will be left behind. It used the Private Educational Assistance Committee (PEAC) School and Readiness Framework and UNICEF's Framework for Reopening Schools in recommending interventions and concrete steps toward the implementation of remote learning modality, hybrid



^ HSU Dean, Dr. Ma. Corazon E. Benosa discussed Recognizing Edges of the Centennial Learners for the School's Continuity and Recovery Plan in the previous Annual University Convocation last August 4, 2022.

learning modality, and the eventual pilot implementation of face-to-face classes. This resulted in an enabling environment needed by the learners and emerged best practices in the academe

Indeed, the CGCS, MDO, and the HSU shaped how the university stakeholders experience the reality of pandemic. All emerged to be excellent crisis managers which can overcome unfavorable situations and turn it into something good.

###



^ Student artworks from the *COMPO and COPY: A Collection of Composition and Copy-a-master artworks by G11-01VAMA* exhibit by the Arts and Design Department of the Higher School ng UMaK displayed last May 30, 2022 to June 3, 2022 at the 5th floor Hallway, HPSB.



TABLET FEST IN FIGURES

By: **SUPPLY AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT OFFICE**

Through the Office of District 2 Representative, Cong. Luis Campos, and the Department of Information and Communication Technology, the Supply and Property Management Office facilitated the release of tablets to the UMak Community,



11,675

UNITS OF TABLETS RELEASED



BREAKDOWN OF DISTRIBUTION

10,935

for students

627

for employees

113

for special projects

RENEWED UMAK: SCHOOL OF THE FUTURE

BY: GENERAL SERVICES OFFICE

“If there’s one thing this pandemic taught us, it is that we do not stop in the face of challenges. Instead, we move forward. We get better.”

The City and UMak did not sit idly while the pandemic was ravaging the world. The Administration and our heroic service providers continuously reported for work while braving the uncertainties of CoViD-19 . It was a weird situation: planning for the future with unknown variables. Nonetheless, we made gradual, and some big changes for a future-proof, disaster and pandemic-ready facilities, controls and processes.

The school and its facilities were mostly established in the 1990s and this was an opportune time for continuous maintenance and rehabilitation work. The City poured in seven (7) major projects totaling to more than PhP 600M pesos and other facility-related projects amounting to more than PhP 100M to the present UMak campus. Projects ranged from more complex upgrading of electrical systems



to accommodate future electrical equipment, renovation of rooms and laboratories, up to the minor end-of-trip cycling facilities for the growing users of alternative modes of transportation.

Renovation projects are underway for 3 out of the 5 UMak buildings allowing updating of facilities, offices, classrooms, and laboratories. The electrical projects upgraded our capacities to an additional 750 kVA for each building. Each building is now capable of housing additional elevator units, electrical and cooling equipment. The administration building now has new chilled water pipes, a backup 590-ton cooling capacity chiller, and a matching cooling tower. Other smaller but relevant developments are the installation of sneeze guards and air sanitation units in rooms and common areas.

Despite the disruptions due to the pandemic, the University of Makati has been tirelessly working in the background to provide up-to-date facilities to aid in our mission of providing the school of the future.

###

What were you thinking?
This must have been the thought on
how the then Center for Performing and Digital Arts
(CEPDA) to the now College of Arts and Letters (CAL) was
created. With course offerings such as Animation, Broadcast and
Performing Arts. Twenty-one (21) years later, the center-turned college has
managed to produce commendable graduates in the field of Broadcast, Animation
and Communication.

What exactly were TBL's thoughts on the efforts to come up with these courses?
Brainchild of then President Tomas B. Lopez Jr, the Animation program
started with very limited facilities. Grounded on traditional art courses,
students honed drawing, painting, and art related crafts skillfully.
Meanwhile, Broadcast majors made do with a regular camera.
Two (2) cameras shared by eight (8)
sections from first to fourth year,
alternately borrowed to meet video
assignments and project deadlines. To
date, these programs remain relevant
then, as it still does now.

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?

BY: ASST. PROF. FLORABEL BERENGUELA-ESTEBAN, MA
COLLEGE SECRETARY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS

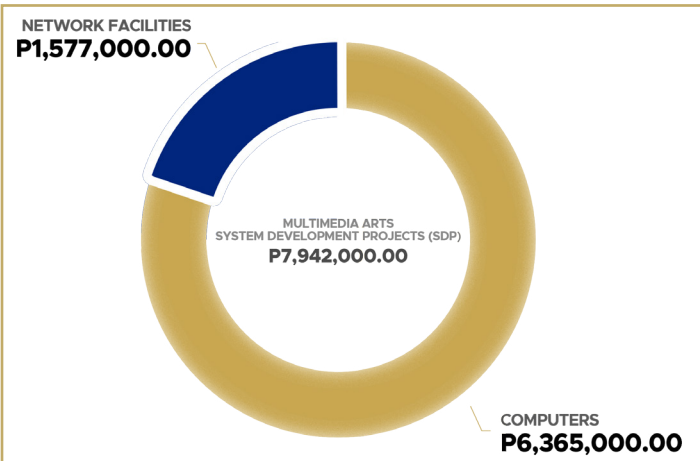
Key factors must have been the continued
support of the City Government of Makati
through the Special Instructional Delivery
System (SIDS). The unique set-up and
industry-academic partnership paved
the way for the college to hire
Consultants as part of the pool
of faculty, dubbed now as
Special Industry Lecturers. This
opportunity has allowed the

students
of the college
to learn first-hand from
industry practitioners on both
skills proficiency and real life
work experiences.

The said computer provisions
allowed students to use high-
end learning materials to
sustain outputs and
projects at

RISE OF THE HERONS

par if not better than schools providing the same Multimedia Arts programs. Thus, the SDP Project has also given ease and comfort for those who cannot afford to buy laptops and other gadgets for academic purposes. Students make use of the 'Open Lab' sessions which has provided access to students the use of laboratory equipment especially during the surge of CoViD-19.



^ The Special Instructional Delivery System (SIDS) now named as Special Industry Lecturers budgeted at P 750,000.00 for the AY 2021-2022. Beyond lectures and partnerships, Multimedia Arts students were able to make use of the allocated System Development Projects (SDP) amounting to a total of P7,942,000.00.

It is also noteworthy that the college has been provided with Black magic camera and a Davinci Resolve editing system for Video Production classes.

To balance the recompense, the College ensures that its students develop skills on par with industry standards. To validate, it has to put a premium on festival participation like the AniMakati 2022 and the Animahensayon 2022, to name a few. AniMakati is an annual event showcasing the students' Capstone projects before a public audience where invited experts evaluate the films and choose the top three (3) works or the 3 Best Films. A Php 22,000 cash was released by the City this year as the prize for the winners.

Capstone projects that received good reviews



during the Animakati are entered for competition at the annual Animahensayon: The Philippine Animation Festival. A Php 50,000 budget was allotted for UMak's participation in this 3-day festival that covers film competitions, mall screenings, and talks from artists of renowned studios in Japan and Hollywood. Animahensayon is the most definitive animation competition in the country. To date, the University has collected more than ten (10) Animahensayon awards, including 2 John Martin Awards for Excellence in 2D Animation and 2 Grand Prizes for the Student Category.

These festivals are just part of the Php 148,000.00 budget for College Activities.

What were you thinking? Twenty-one Years and an Eighteen Million Budget after, work goes on for the college as we take each challenge one day at a time. It indeed was a walk on crossroads and difficult situations. But we took it, one milestone, one winning moment and one more day rising up from a fall everytime.

What was he thinking?

The Man must be happy from above.

###

REFLECTIONS: THE LIBRARY LEARNING COMMONS AMIDST COVID-19

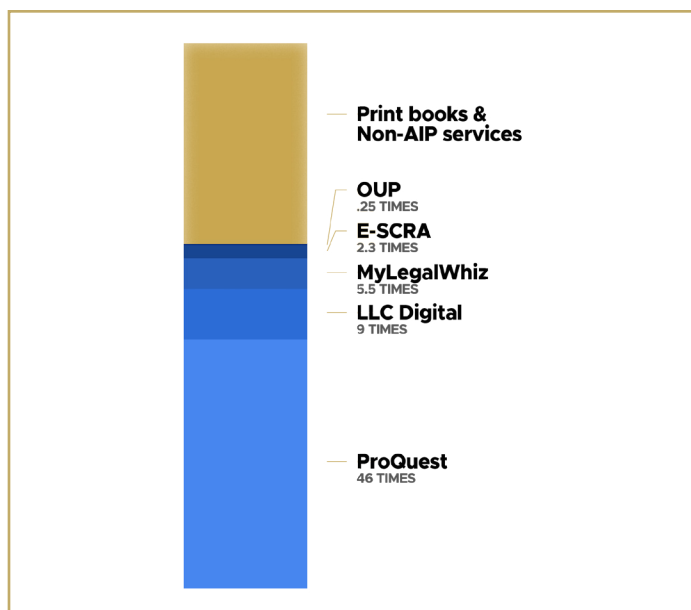
By: Ms. JENNIFER J. LALUNA, RL, MLIS
DIRECTOR, LIBRARY LEARNING COMMONS

The call for a responsive and flexible library service due to CoViD-19 that could cater to technology-based information exchange and retrieval has prompted the LLC team to continuously track records of digital service effectiveness—reflecting on the onset of the pandemic. From 2021 to the present, the Library Learning Commons (LLC) actively adjusted to the unprecedented times and continued delivering online services to its patrons. In addition to the immediate response to the pandemic, the LLC adapted measures to adjust its current practices and conduct new initiatives concerning digital services.

Reflections of the LLC Digital Library Services: Best Practice

HyFlex library services began at the onset of CoViD-19, wherein the LLC gradually shifted its focus to internet-based information services and multimedia sources to address the pressing issue of providing digital library services.

The LLC's new role became the reason for continuously subscribing to the databases beginning in 2019. Extending its digital resources via remote access and providing service on-site is the most significant challenge and one of the most sought-after alternatives to deliver HyFlex library services.

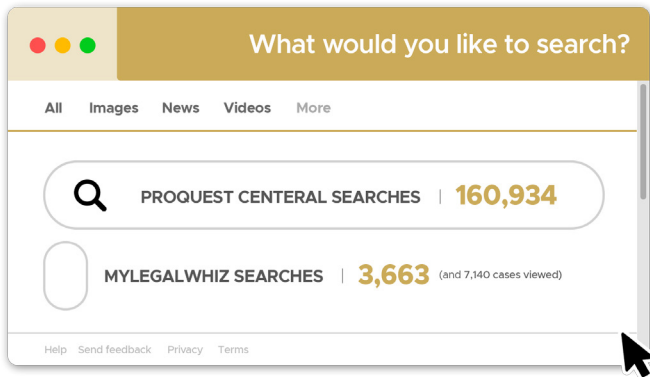


^ From October 2021 to October 2022, ProQuest is the most consulted database with an average use of 46 times per student, followed by LLC Digital, MyLegalWhiz, and E-SCRA. The least is OUP and the rest of the percentage is from print books and non-AIP services.

Innovative service: the new opportunities to learn

The LLC's innovative services through e-transformation such as improving its social media engagement and Photo Me initiative were but a few reinvented services that refueled students' life to positively engage with the UMaK academic community in a time of uncertainty. In contrast to Mehta, Wang, and Xiaocan's (2020) findings from their study on CoViD-19 and Digital Library Services, the global pandemic has impacted digital library services and assumed that the global pandemic had created natural barriers affecting abilities to perform jobs. However, LLC turned these barriers into

RISE OF THE HERONS



^ During mid-September, an upward pattern registered from the frequencies of the digital library with 160,934 searches in ProQuest Central, followed by MyLegalWhiz and the rest of the ratings are registered to the LLCs innovative services.

building bricks towards exploring other library services that may benefit the UMaK community. These challenges have opened the door for LLC personnel to learn and become more equipped, creative, and collaborative in adapting and utilizing new technologies.



The LLC Librarians in a Digital Agile Herons' Society

The uproar of the CoViD-19 pandemic changed the practices and culture of the LLC. It motivated the LLC team to think outside the box and find ways to cultivate itself towards the changes in circumstances and time. The more fast-paced technological advancements, the quicker it is

that the LLC team responds to these issues and finds creative solutions.

The LLC database resources are a highly effective tool for enticing users to patronize credible sources of information in their research and studies. As the image of LLC has changed due to innovation of tools, so has the librarians' role. Librarians' roles have evolved and gone beyond its initial task of being the custodian of resources. With the advent of technological tools, librarians have assumed the role of educators and informationists to educate their patrons how to locate information both in the conventional setup and over electronic networks.

The LLC librarians, as resource persons, initiated library webinar database instructions across colleges and became the platform system experts, with 51% or 4,913 students who attended the said webinar. The LLC's goal to remain active despite not being physically open by utilizing various alternative means became one of the essential services of the University with the onset of the pandemic. From October 2020 to present, ProQuest had the most consulted databases with 338,259 searches, LLC Digital with 4,655 searches, and 4,464 for MyLegalWhiz with the most extensive activity features.

LLC has placed several consequential innovations to keep the LLC services afloat on a "hyflex learning modality." The year 2021 has unraveled many opportunities for the LLC. Thus, utilization in 2022 increased magnanimously as we continue investing heavily in electronic sources.

Possibilities and flexibilities are the keys to sustaining hyflex library service under the new normal. Undoubtedly, academic libraries in different countries and regions have different



FROM CHALLENGING EXPERIENCE TO REWARDED RESILIENCE

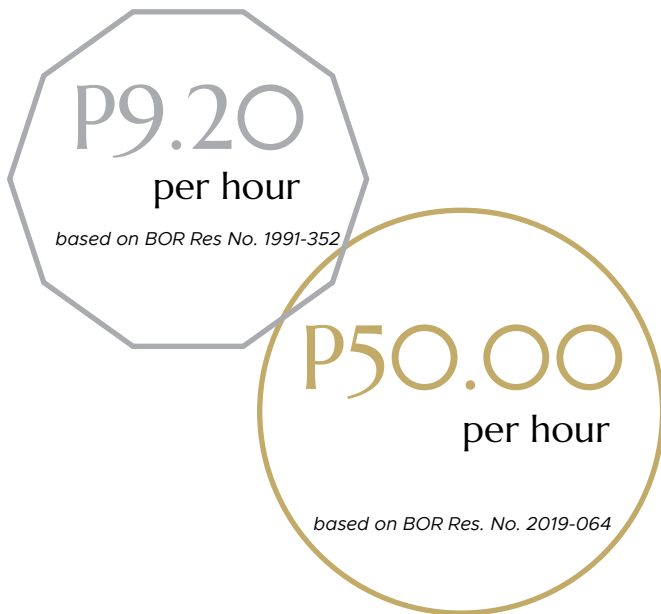
BY: OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT SERVICES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, Ms. LOURLENE JOY D. UGADDAN, AND MR. JERROM E. ABAINZA

The University of Makati proudly distinguishes itself in playing an active role in improving the living conditions of its stakeholders. Its mission plainly states that it will develop highly qualified professionals and skillful employees from the children of the less privileged Makati residents. As part of the 50th Founding Anniversary, in continuing the spirit of making a difference in people's lives, let us dive into one of the university programs that was specifically created to change the lives of the financially challenged herons then and now.

The university started a program which assures equal opportunity to access a quality education for all by providing each student with the resources and financial assistance they need. Now called the University Student Assistantship Scheme (UNISAS) in 2022, the students are given an opportunity to render administrative services and technical assistance to various university offices in exchange for an allowance. This year 2022, with an annual budget amounting to PHP 3,300,000, these seventy-five (75) students are entitled to receive a total of PHP 44,000 each as they render services four hours a day for 22 days in a span of ten (10) months.

strategies to support their users in the best way possible. To end on a positive note, CoViD-19 provides a unique opportunity for LLC to rethink its key roles and core values in supporting teaching and learning. This unprecedented scenario opened the eye of many libraries. It made them rethink how the services could be provided to the users when a similar situation arises. The formulation should be like that, making it possible for the libraries to be prepared to work flexibly through any circumstances or difficulties, both online and on-site.

###



Working Students: The UMak View

Were it not for the investment of the university to this program, these students would have been very challenged to continue their education, eventually leading to possible unemployment. It was observed that the university has been the go-to of the less privileged Makati locals since it was placed under the care of the city administration of the former Mayor Jejomar C. Binay, and now under Mayor Mar-Len Abigail S. Binay. It was, after all, the mission of the university even then.

The latest university statistics backed-up such a view. The numbers show that for the first semester of A.Y. 2022 – 2023, out of 6611 who registered for enrollment in the university portal, 1289 are working students and 5322 are full time students. This means that 1 out of 4 students in the classroom is working. In an average class size of 40, there are at least 10 working students trying to complete a degree while striving to make a living.

Finding their Paths: Student Assistants to Public Servants

By giving the students a way to gain employment experience and by teaching them

the skills necessary for office administration, the program yields more than reasonable returns to its investments. The Office of the Vice President for Student Services and Community Development, the project proponent, boasted that some student assistants it aimed to develop despite financial setbacks are now the same accomplished and successful professionals serving the University. This is a great outcome because one of the program's objectives, according to the Vice President Virgilio Tabbu, is to help the university attract these students to be hired as highly skilled professionals in the university.

Ms. Jennifer A. Odiña, for example, who rendered her service as a student assistant back in the 1990s is now the Head of the Supply and Property Management Office. She is currently part of the team which aims to streamline the university project cycle processes together with the members of the Center for Planning and Development (CPD) and Budget and Internal Audit Office (BIAO). Also, Medarlito Grate Jr., an IT professional and tech enthusiast with experience in social media content production in digital and TV Production, is presently a significant contributor to the UMak's policies for standardization of branding and visual identity.

Bea Diaz, one of the newbloods of the Alumni office, set the bar high for herself by proving she could balance studies and part time work. This set of expectations for herself earned her the Bachelor of Science and Office Management (BSOM) degree.

Grace Lorenzo and her family had their own financial challenges to face. Grace had to consider putting her education on hold so her brother, who was in his last year in college, could finish. The program allowed Grace not only to finish her education but also have a

BS Financial Management cum laude feather on her cap.

The program recognizes Nancy Mangahas, Joy Apuyan, Dianne Talaguit, Elinor Dollete, Christine Salazar-Sanchez who all shared their experiences with how they organized all student records in the University Registrar in early days.

Myra Rosales who through perseverance provided a comfortable life for her family.

Myrene Molina, James Sarvida, Nelzie Maqueda, Bryan Pergamino, Jaesa Agarpao, and Jennifer Elauria who like all the above mentioned received what was promised by the program: quality education with financial aid to students who are less privileged.

Sowing Generously, Reaping Generously

These are but a few of the “seeds” generously sown by the university whose hard work and loyalty to the university are reaped throughout the years. The 50 years of the University are just the beginning of yet another journey to bring out the financially challenged heron’s underlying potential. The student assistants’ journey to becoming employees of UMak is a testament that the university recognizes and rewards the resilience of the Herons in each of their flights. Cheers to the next 50 years of enabling young people to grow into adults who have flourishing lives!

###

THE JOURNEY TOWARDS INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

BY: DR. EDITHA O. MARCELO

**DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION -
GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT**

“The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way it treats its weakest members.”

- Mahatma Gandhi

Makati City has accounted for more than 11,000 persons with disabilities since 2019 and the number continues to rise. With this number, making a difference in their lives even to just a few will surely have an impact not just on their families but on the entire city as well. The first time that the Hon. Mar-Len Abigail C. Binay took the reins of running the City of Makati, she is already committed to promoting and maintaining a clean, honest, and efficient government toward an inclusive, livable and sustainable city for all.

The University of Makati has always been inclusive because of its foremost mandate which is to provide quality tertiary education for Makati constituents who have less in life, leaving no one behind. With this inspiration, the university decided to create a center dedicated to special needs learners. The mission is to empower students who are having difficulties in their academic performance either because of a disability or gender preferences and expression by providing free, appropriate, skills-based, and

RISE OF THE HERONS



^ Members of UMaK community joined the Sign Language Training organized by CIE-GAD in collaboration with the Philippine Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc last August 2022.

industry-driven education that would redound to functionality and independent living. With this thrust, the Center for Inclusive Education, Gender and Development (CIE-GAD) together with other stakeholders work as one toward a fully mainstreamed, inclusive, and gender-responsive city whose citizens can equally partake and contribute to the city's progress and glory.

The Rise

The Center for Inclusive Education started to accommodate special needs learners in 2019 with 11 senior high students, 27 freshmen enrolled in different colleges and 13 others who were already enrolled. All 11 students in senior high graduated, five (5) of them are now in college and three (3) are to graduate this school year with associate programs. Those who are in their third and fourth year are doing well and about to graduate soon. The biggest challenge was when five (5) students with hearing impairment were accommodated. Aware that the university is not so prepared for this type of student, CIE-GAD survived with 4 volunteer sign language interpreters with the addition of our social worker who is conversant in sign language. These interpreters join classes especially during lecture-intensive sessions or as per request by the faculty. Slowly, everyone seemed comfortable

with the setup of having interpreters, peer coaches for all of our students, and academic coaches composed of faculty members, the majority of them are volunteers as well.

The Challenges

Slowly but smoothly cruising to reach its destination, the first wave of the pandemic, the CoViD-19 virus, disrupted CIE-GAD's journey toward progress. Two (2) students cannot paddle any further in their academics. Beset with a choice of whom to save first, we decided to drop their anchors, hence the decision to file for leave of absence. Positive that staying ashore will help calm down their inner storm, the center concentrated on helping others to cope with the rigors of online learning. It was not long before we were taken aback to learn that depression and anxiety took their toll on students whom we thought were in the safe confines of their homes. Then, our hearing-impaired students started to raise the concern about needing a more stable sail to help them drift along. Students are now coming out of their shells. Gender-related issues started to surface crying for equality, recognition, and acceptance by people they consider to be their significant others. Moreover, faculty members and coaches



^ Dr. Arlene Carmela M. Salomon and Dr. Andro D. Escobar shared their knowledge, insights, and experiences on Understanding Disability last September 16, 2022 to the UMaK community and guests from the Pederasyon ng may Kapansanan sa Makati.

must be reinforced to abet the rising tides that may cause our vessel to sink because students under our care must be provided with something to hold on to float. Nearly on the edge of a cliff, and with just the two of us manning the center, giving up means killing all our dreams of getting across on the other side, much so with our students.

flooded us. MoMent (Monitoring and Mentoring) sessions with the student and then with parents helped us identify hidden inputs that caused inabilities and limitations in the regular functioning and academic performance of students. We conducted online seminars about inclusive education and gender and development zeroing in on the most basic issues that must

“We’ve always believed that asking for help and admitting that we can only do so much won’t make us less of a person. The more that we recognize our limitations, the more that it brings out the better in us. “

The Intervention

Fully aware that special needs learners do not learn online, the center has to do something. Going beyond and maybe under what is originally normal, we braved to be more different, more vigilant of what is yet to come, more selfless for others, and more importantly, ask for help. The Center intensified our group chats with parents and guardians and invited as many students as peer coaches, volunteer teachers, and other advocacy groups. Online academic coaching, meeting deadlines, submission of requirements, schedule reminders, and constant dialogs with receiving teachers

be addressed from internet connectivity, unemployment, provision of basic needs, medical assistance, mental health, and identity crisis. People heeded our call for help. HSU Parent Teachers Association, teachers donated in kind and conducted online tutoring, and counseling, and the City Government of Makati distributed tablets to every UMAK student to aid learning. What a relief! It rained even if we only prayed and asked for a shower.

The Revelation

We’ve always believed that asking for help and admitting that we can only do so much won’t make us less of a person. The more that we recognize our limitations, the more that it brings out the better in us. CoViD-19 started to ease down and little by little, things are slowly getting back to normal. CIE-GAD tried to make the most of what it had and our call for help paved the way to bigger things.

With university personnel, parents, and students, both online and face to face, CIE-GAD conducted an activity focusing extensive discussion on SOGIEs to shed light on uncertainties



RISE OF THE HERONS

surrounding gender identities, expression, and preferences. SOGIEs (sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression) ignited inspiration and motivation that for the longest time, being different does not measure one's capabilities, nor does it limit one's potential to dream big, but rather, knowledge of basic laws, rights, and privileges will lead to the recognition of those considered to be different than true development is for all. The budget allowed CIE-GAD to conduct seminars to give enlightenment on the most pressing issues of dealing with disability and individual differences. Attendees gained insights into the basic manifestations of disabilities and how understanding can lead to better means of handling misbehaviors. Teachers and parents realized that poor academic performance does not mean being dumb or lazy. Academic performance can be attributed to many factors and one of which is a disability. Gender-based issues can also be considered a factor because this leads to biases, stereotyping, anxiety, stress, and worse, family denial and unacceptance. These factors are predominantly cultural in nature as dictated by societal norms and standards.

The attendance of local barangay officials, health workers, students, teachers, and parents resulted in a strengthened commitment to help create awareness amongst Makati constituents. Seminars on women's and children's empowerment were also conducted with CIE-GAD and GAD Focal Point System members in the lead. Said seminars helped CIE-GAD and GFPS members redirect plans and goals.

All efforts came to the fruition of informed, aware, and committed Makatizens. CIE-GAD's endeavors which were initially thought of as internal capacity-building activities for UMak stakeholders awakened the interest of many. Every activity conducted has been attended

by partners from MSWD, Pederasyon ng may Kapansanan sa Makati with barangay representatives, Barangay Pitogo Council, East Rembo, and Sta. Cruz, and personnel from the Armed Forces of the Philippines. By word of mouth, CIE-GAD started to receive invitations to conduct seminars at nearby elementary and high schools specifically requesting to discuss programs on Gender and Development: Development for All, the same invitation being received from other localities.

“...working together can make a difference to those who are different.”

The journey toward inclusion was never easy. CIE-GAD started with uncertain small steps, it tried to stride. The center stumbled and struggled, not because the center is weak, but because others do not see the significance of possibilities. In short, people must believe and agree that working together can make a difference to those who are different. Just a thought: When one needs a flicker to at least see a shadow, share with him your torch, then walk together and go find your ways.

###

BY THE NUMBERS

UMak in Figures: Financial Report

BY: *ENGR. LUKE IVAN B. MORO, DBAC*
VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE

As expected, financial reports, particularly the Collection Report, were able to capture the changes in operation as a response to the health and safety protocols put in place because of the Covid-19 pandemic. When the pandemic struck in early 2020 and strict health and safety protocols were imposed that limited the populace's mobility, the university initially had to suspend payments and hastily developed its online payment application, Scan To Pay, which became available in September 2020.

- For 2021, token fee payments made via the online portal iBayad account for 90% of token fee collection. For 2022, the share is even higher at 95%. This shift in the mode of payment started before the pandemic to avoid long queues at the payment counters, which also strains its meager Cash office personnel. The pre-pandemic adoption of iBayad proved fortuitous as it afforded the university to transition faster and smoother.
- The 61% increase from the onsite collection for school records fees and the almost 4000% increase in collection for rent in the use of facilities is the result of the lifting of strict health protocols which allowed for more mobility. To revive the economy, the government allowed mass gatherings including the holding of sports events. Truly, the pandemic hurt the economy as it restricted people's mobility.

REPORT ON COLLECTIONS		
ONSITE		
PARTICULAR	2022	2021
Token Fees	1,350,420.00	2,841,166.50
NSTP		
SERVICE INCOME		
Transfer Credentials	10,620.00	4,000.00
Transcript of Records	413,830.00	154,280.00
Completion	570	360
Certification	46,640.00	22,090.00
Leave of Absence	12,525.00	3,375.00
Authentication	160,300.00	142,890.00
Registration	100.00	
Course Content	22,700.00	1,170.00
CAV	15,600.00	7,690.00
ID Replacement		250
Form 137	140.00	
RLE	4,470.00	
Foreign Documents	15,700.00	
TOTAL	703,195.00	336,105.00
RENT INCOME		
Electric Consumption	474,889.20	244,017.60
Use of Facilities	9,566,427.32	
Water Consumption	66,060.00	
Gym Fee	45,900.00	
TOTAL	10,153,277.42	244,017.60
OTHER INCOME		
Research Fee	168,920.00	2,900.00
SOL/MBA Payment	1,564,575.24	
Token Fee	5,100.00	
TOTAL	1,736,595.24	2,900.00
GRAND TOTAL	13,945,486.76	
ONLINE THRU IBAYAD SCAN-TO-PAY		
PARTICULAR	2022	2021
Token Fee/ Change of Matriculation	21,813,363.70	26,566,714.60
NSTP	470,900.00	475,950.00
University ID	240,700.00	
Unaccounted	2,108,326.89	
TOTAL	24,633,290.59	27,042,664.60

INVESTMENTS IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY			
GENERAL DESCRIPTION		QUANTITY/ SIZE	APPROVED BUDGET
1	Renewal of Subscription for Telephone Services/ Voice Services	12 months	1,080,000.00
2	Renewal and Upgrade of Subscription for Internet Services via Fiber-optic line	12 months	
	A. Renewal and Upgrade of Main Internet Service (400 Mbps or higher)	12 months	5,280,000.00
	B. Renewal and Upgrade of Secondary Internet Service (400 Mbps or higher)	12 months	5,280,000.00
3	Renewal of Subscription for IAAS Cloud Service with Support and Maintenance, Wild Card SSL and UMAK.EDU. PH Domain Name	12 months	8,640,000.00
4	Renewal of Subscription for ICT Security Managed Services with 2 Onsite Manpower for the whole contract duration	12 months	8,400,000.00
5	Renewal of Subscription for End-point Security Service (UMak Anti-Virus Program) for both Academic and Admin used PCs and Laptops	1 year	1,000,000.00

Adaptation to technology

The shift to online payment was made possible because the university invested in ICT to automate its enrollment process. Also, as a response to the situation, the university hastily subscribed to a Moodle-based LMS christened TBL-Hub or Technology-Based Learning.

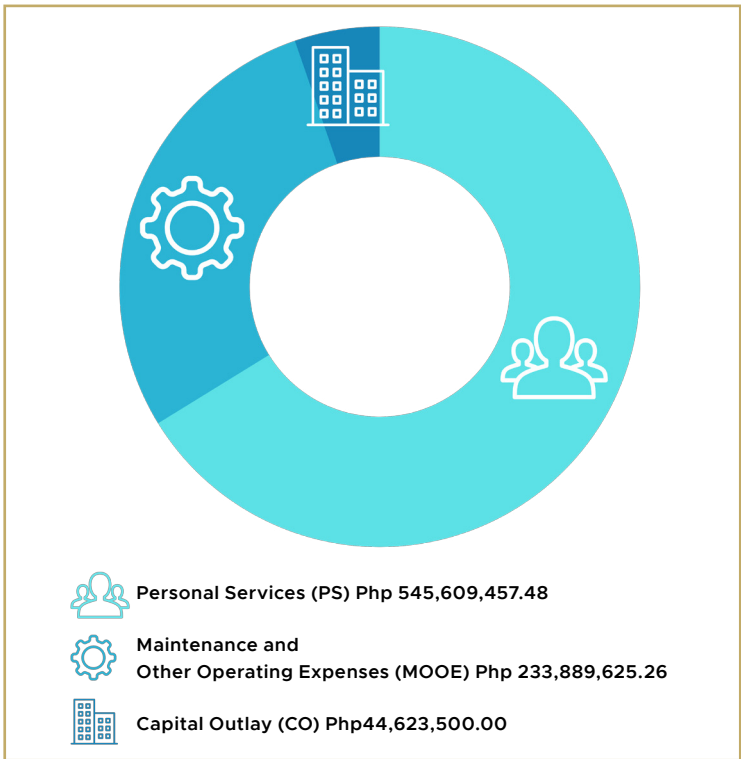
- For 2022, the university has a total budget of P844M. Of this amount, about P30M is for ICT.
- The pandemic compelled the university to shift to online learning, subscribe to a Moodle-based LMS, and add more online administrative services. This entails investing in a fast and reliable internet connection and the rationale for an additional 400-500 Mbps internet speed to support the online-based services.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT		
PARTICULARS	1st Sem AY 2022-2023	1st Sem AY 2021-2022
Total Expected Collection	162,988,830.00	105,441,500.00
Subsidy from the City Government	141,519,330.00	83,543,000.00
Scholarship Grant from UMak	9,492,000.00	9,378,500.00
Total Subsidy and Scholarship Grant	151,011,330.00	92,921,500.00
Net Assessment	11,977,500.00	12,520,000.00

*1st Sem AY 2022-2023: Total Expected Collections are the sum of theoretical and laboratory courses, related learning experience (RLE), and miscellaneous fees (medical/dental and library fees). 1st Sem AY 2021-2022: Total Expected Collections are the sum of tuition fees and theoretical courses of the graduate programs.

ASSESSMENT 1st Sem AY 2022-2023

	Full Scholar	Partial Scholar	Paying	Total Assessment
Undergraduate	1,041	2,519	6,182	P10,586,500.00
SOL		144	1	P20,300.00
CCAPS		30	179	P1,370,700.00
TOTAL	3,934		6,362	P11,977,500.00



Investment in Education

As can be gleaned from the Assessment Report, the city government increased its subsidy from P83 million in 2021 to P141 million in 2022 or a 61% increase in subsidy. The increase can be attributed to more scholars supported for its School of Law and the mainstreaming of its allied health programs. Starting in SY 2020-2021, the three allied health programs - nursing, radiologic technology, and pharmacy, were mainstreamed. That is, the city heavily subsidized the schooling of students from these programs. Instead of paying market-based rates for tuition, students from these programs paid the standard P1000 token fee if the student is a Makati resident or P3000 if a non-resident.

In addition to the subsidy from the city, the university also provides subsidies through Scholarship grants as a reward for exemplary academic performance and students' involvement in the arts and sports. Consider, of the 10,296 total students enrolled in SY 2022-2023, only 6362, or 62% are paying a subsidized tuition fee. This further erodes the prospective collection from token fee payments which explains why the university can only expect to collect about P12 million or 7.34% to 11.87% of the total assessed fees.

Budget Appropriations and Accountability

The city remains committed to its mission of uplifting the lives of its constituents through education. For 2022, the university was given a budget of P824 million, the details of which are shown in the diagram.

RISE OF THE HERONS

Approved Appropriation

PERSONAL SERVICES	Approved Budget 2022	Approved Budget 2021
Salaries and Wages		
Salaries and Wages – Regular	178,202,273.00	220,009,000.00
Salaries and Wages – Casual/Contractual	78,014,187.00	138,412,000.00
Other Compensation		
Personnel Economic Relief Allowance (PERA)	13,470,000.00	17,868,000.00
Representation Allowance (RA)	564,000.00	564,000.00
Clothing/Uniform Allowance	3,270,000.00	4,146,000.00
Subsistence Allowance	306,000.00	360,000.00
Laundry Allowance	31,000.00	36,000.00
Honoraria	53,490,000.00	50,778,000.00
Hazard Pay	1,558,000.00	5,308,000.00
Overtime and Night Pay	-	100,000.00
Year End Bonus	21,264,108.80	26,695,000.00
Cash Gift	2,732,000.00	3,725,000.00
Other Bonuses and Allowances	34,304,000.00	26,792,000.00
Personnel Benefit Contributions		
Retirement and Life Insurance Contributions	31,516,231.40	38,536,000.00
Pag-IBIG Contributions	674,100.00	894,000.00
PhilHealth Contributions	5,147,180.50	5,401,000.00
Employees Compensation Insurance Premiums	674,100.00	894,000.00
Other Personnel Benefits		
Terminal Leave Benefits	10,531,000.00	13,690,000.00
Other Personnel Benefits	39,077,242.00	36,135,000.00
TOTAL P.S.	474,825,422.70	590,343,000.00

CAPITAL OUTLAY:	Approved Budget 2022	Approved Budget 2021
Other Structures		5,000,000.00
Machinery		3,000,000.00
Office Equipment	256,500.00	2,623,000.00
Information and Communication Technology Equipment	26,281,000.00	21,914,000.00
Medical Equipment		401,000.00
Sports Equipment		46,000.00
Technical and Scientific Equipment	11,634,000.00	19,433,000.00
Furniture and fixtures	3,762,500.00	2,340,000.00
Books	2,007,000.00	
Other Property, Plant and Equipment	369,500.00	1,072,000.00
Computer Software		7,121,000.00
TOTAL CO	44,310,500.00	62,950,000.00

MAINTENANCE & OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES	Approved Budget 2022	Approved Budget 2021
Traveling Expenses		
Traveling Expenses – Local	10,000.00	82,000.00
Training and Scholarship Expenses		
Training Expenses	2,084,100.00	3,172,500.00
Scholarship Grants/Expenses	17,880,000.00	13,800,000.00
Supplies and Materials Expenses		
Office Supplies Expenses	10,306,000.00	198,900.00
Drugs and Medicines Expenses	24,000.00	48,000.00
Medical, Dental and Laboratory Supplies Expenses	1,355,800.00	663,000.00
Textbooks and Instructional Materials Expenses	8,170,000.00	3,800,000.00
Other Supplies and Materials Expenses	4,690,580.00	5,279,500.00
Communication Expenses		
Postage and Courier Services	10,000.00	10,000.00
Telephone Expenses	1,265,000.00	1,450,000.00
Internet Subscription Expenses	10,560,000.00	9,600,000.00
Awards/Rewards and Prizes		99,000.00
Prizes	928,000.00	1,249,500.00
Professional Services		
Consultancy Services	205,000.00	2,400,000.00
Other Professional Services	123,104,975.26	121,822,000.00
Repairs and Maintenance		
Repairs and Maintenance - Machinery and Equipment	3,070,000.00	4,020,000.00
Other Maintenance and Operating Expenses		
Printing and Publication Expenses	3,290,350.00	5,479,700.00
Rent Expenses	723,900.00	
Membership Dues and Contributions to Organizations	200,000.00	200,000.00
Subscription Expenses	6,518,000.00	4,650,000.00
Donations	1,525,000.00	505,000.00
Other Maintenance and Operating Expense	23,249,850.00	18,892,938.72
TOTAL MOOE	219,250,555.26	197,422,038.72

Total Appropriation	
2022	Php 738,386,477.96
2021	Php 850,715,038.72

Status of Budget Utilization

Object of Expenditures	Utilization Rate as of December 31, 2022	Utilization Rate 2021
CURRENT YEAR APPROPRIATIONS:		
PERSONAL SERVICES:		
Total P.S.	95.62%	75.66%
MAINTENANCE & OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES:		
Total M.O.O.E.	84.98%	75.47%
CAPITAL OUTLAY:		
Total C.O.	82.66%	65.64%
Total Current Year Appropriations	91.68%	74.87%

Money is a scarce resource. Keenly aware of this, the university exercises prudence when asking for funding support for its plans and programs. During the budget preparation phase, proposed Projects, Programs, and Activities (PPAs) undergo scrutiny and proponents are asked if these can be implemented. This possibly explains why the university is able to hit a budget utilization of more than 70%.

###

UMak in Figures: Registrar Services

BY: DR. AMELIA PAJE,
UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR

The Office of the University Registrar (OUR) plays an active role in every student's school life from the senior high school level, undergraduate, graduate, and post graduate levels. With its vision to be a highly responsive Office, able to deliver quality services promptly, with accuracy and integrity and with highest ethical principles to all internal and external customers, the OUR provides services that are in support of student registration, retention up to graduation. We also do maintenance and transmission of student academic records, issue certifications, uphold academic policies of the institution, and ensure compliance to policies, standards and guidelines by CHED among others.

Official enrollment of students requires the use Certificate of Registration, also known as COR, in triplicate. For the first semester, sufficient supply of this form was delivered and utilized. The Office printed 13,400 forms, segregated manually the three copies and distributed copies to the Accounting and Dean's offices respectively.

Online Enrollment



13,277 **12,254** **13,400**

1ST SEM 2021-2022 2ND SEM 2021-2022 1ST SEM 2022-2023

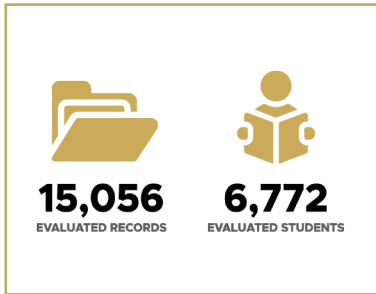
Graduate Statistics



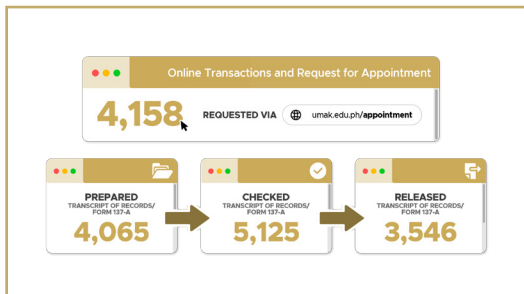
526 **3,636**

1ST SEM 2021-2022 2ND SEM 2021-2022

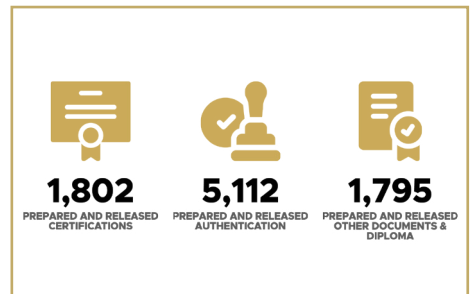
Registrar As School Records Provider



^ Evaluation of School Records (as of Oct. 2022)

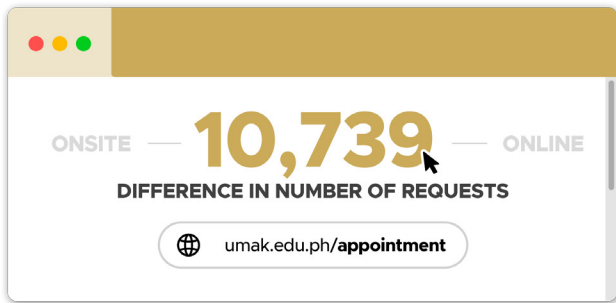


^ TOR and Form 137A requests



^ Certification, Authentication, and Verification

Overall, students’ records undergo two rounds of evaluation. The first round takes place after enrollment. Each staff examines each student’s individual 201 file for completeness of their records on file. Otherwise, students’ attention is called via Google Meet or Messenger to inform them of their lacking records, lack courses and or request for Form 137/Transcript of records. The second round happens after encoding of grades. This phase will show if students are academically completed in their program of study. The names becomes a pool that constitutes the list of candidates for graduation for approval by the University Council and by the Board of Regents.



Following health protocols, walk-in applicants should request for an appointment through the OLTRAS website. Thus, there is a huge gap between online and onsite requests, with online comprising bulk of school records requests

As a pro-active partner of other offices, the OUR provided data on enrollment statistics, graduation statistics, list of graduates with accompanying

personal and sensitive information requested by other offices like: 1) QMDC for accreditation purposes, 2) Dean’s Office for the computation of drop-out rates, 3) DCNB for the list of NSTP completers for the application for serial number, (4) CHED for the master list and graduation list, (5) PRC for the list of graduates especially the Board-related Programs for graduates to take the board examination, and (6) Civil Service Commission for the list of honors that can be used as conversion for Professional Examination.###

**UMAK IN FIGURES:
PROMOTION AND
REGULARIZATION
OF PERSONNEL**

Academic	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022
Promotion	-	2	-
Regularization	29	7	13
Administrative			
Promotion	-	18	1
Regularization	28	1	2
TOTAL	57	28	16

BY: HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICE

UMAK'S CONTINUED QUEST FOR QUALITY EDUCATION & RECOGNITION

BY: ASSOC. PROF. JAYSON BERGANIA, EDD

DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

On a Quest to be the Best

From its humble beginnings as the Makati Polytechnic University in 1972, the face of the University of Makati (UMAK) has continued to transform in the last half a century. Starting from very few program-offerings since its inception, the list of courses offered in UMAK has evolved to respond to the never-before-seen changes & demands of the current time. True to its mandate as Makati City's primary instrument to mold the City's youth through education and industry training programs, and to mold highly competent professionals and skilled workers from the children of the City's residents, the University currently offers more than fifty-six (56) programs across its sixteen (16) Colleges & Academic Institutes. These programs provide the choices for the students as they fulfill their dream profession based on their talents, interests and aspirations.

Being a local university, UMak may be small in size or young in age compared to its counterpart State Universities across the country. However, the University continues to work on ensuring high quality education for its stakeholders, especially its students. The support that the City Government of Makati extends to UMak is incomparable.

With the progressive leadership inspired by its Institutional Vision and Mission, UMak ceaselessly explores all avenues to meet national and international standards on the brand of education it offers. It remains bold and ambitious on its quest to be one of the best, if not the best, Local University in the Philippines.

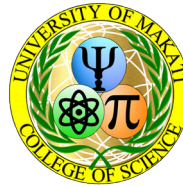
The Brass Tacks

Part of the University's measure in ensuring quality is to secure Certificate of Program Compliance (CoPC) from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) for all its Baccalaureate and Graduate program-offerings. This certification represents that the offered program is compliant to all the requirements set by the Commission in terms of curriculum, students services, faculty, learning support, facility and other identified areas for evaluation & inspection by a team of quality assessors. Moreover, part of the requirements for a university to secure Institutional Recognition (IR) from CHED is the issuance of COPCs on all its programs. Out of the more than fifty programs in the University of Makati, there are only nine (9) remaining programs awaiting CoPC issuance from CHED in 2022. The completion of these CoPCs shall facilitate the issuance of UMak's Institutional Recognition which will open bigger opportunities for us to achieve.

AWARDED CERTIFICATES OF PROGRAM COMPLIANCE



- Bachelor of Science in Exercise and Sports Sciences



- Bachelor of Science in Psychology



- Bachelor of Multimedia Arts



- Bachelor of Science in Management Accounting



- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
- Bachelor of Science in Information Technology

Through the coordination of the Center for Quality Management and Development (CQMD) and the collective efforts of all the colleges-concerned, six (6) of the remaining programs have already secured their CoPC from February to August, 2022.

The University is hopeful for the immediate issuance of the CoPC for the Bachelor of Science in Tourism Management (BSTM) and the Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management (BSHM) under the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management (CTHM) and the Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering (BSCE) under the College of Construction Sciences and Engineering (CCSE) as the assessment is still ongoing for these three (3) programs as of this writing.

The Next Frontier: World University Rankings

The future of the University of Makati looks great. Its continued efforts to achieve quality in every area of the Institution is the first step towards reaching its vision for the colleges to become Center of Development or Center of Excellence. By continuously honing discipline among its people, by building a mindset of innovation on its processes and by developing a culture of excellence on its products, UMak's dream to be ranked as the first Local University in the World University Ranking shall soon be a reality. Until then, the community of the great, brave herons shall continue to soar in greater heights.

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The dream of establishing the University of Makati School of Law (UMak SOL) started when former Vice-President of the Philippines, now Dean Emeritus, Jejomar C. Binay, was still the Mayor of the City of Makati. It was through the help of the late Professor Tomas B. Lopez that the plan of establishing UMak's very own School of Law came into fruition. After careful planning and with the approval of the Board of Regents (BOR) and the City Government of Makati, UMak filed its application for accreditation with the Legal Education Board (LEB) for the Juris Doctor (J.D.) Program. Fast forward, after several years, the dream is now a reality.

The J.D. Program (Thesis) of UMak SOL is supported by the City Government of Makati. The City Government invested in facilities that would create and foster an environment conducive to studying and learning. To match its investment

in facilities, esteemed and experienced law professors from different areas of expertise were invited and now compose the UMak SOL roster of faculty. Above all, it heavily invested in its students based on the principle that a full scholarship program will help the students focus on their studies free from unnecessary distractions and without the need to worry about the financial requirements of legal education. All of these in the hopes of producing lawyers who have a deep understanding of the rule of law, strong sense of fairness, unwavering social responsibility and commitment to public service and the protection of people's rights.

Guided by the vision and mission of developing future builders of the land and producing Filipino lawyers who are ethical and excellent in theory and practice, with the heart to serve, UMak SOL officially opened its doors to its pioneer batch on August 7, 2017.



THE REALIZATION OF A DREAM

BY: *ATTY. ANGEL CHONA GRACE VALERO-NUÑEZ,*
COLLEGE SECRETARY, SCHOOL OF LAW

RISE OF THE HERONS



#BestBarEver

It took not just a village, but a whole city and a university to produce a 100% passing percentage for UMak SOL in the #BestBarEver and also to execute the successful hosting of the Bar Exams as a Bar Testing Center. UMak prides itself as one of the testing centers in the National Capital Region hosting the largest number of Bar examinees. The overall success of the hosting of the Bar Exams in the midst of the pandemic was because of the teamwork of the UMak Bar Exams Committee, Supreme Court Committee, and the City of Makati Task Force convened for the purpose of preparing the venue and overseeing that every detail is executed seamlessly for the event.



Internally, the Centralized Bar Operations and the UMak SOL administration worked tirelessly to ensure that the first batch of Bar examinees, the Pioneer 9, have nothing to worry about and that all their needs are met. Several virtual activities were also undertaken to show support to the Pioneer 9. They were provided with food, transportation, Bar kits, Heron Notes and Last Minute Tips, Bar Bulletin updates, recorded well-wishes and congratulatory messages, and most importantly prayer and moral support.



Prophetic! As if it was foretold, the golden year of UMak coincided with the #BestBarEver2020/21. Lo and behold! UMak SOL produced its first batch of Heron lawyers from its pioneer class on the year of the 50th founding anniversary of the University.

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TOOLS, TALES, AND TRIUMPHS

*BY: MR. CARL JOSEPH E. GADING,
MR. MARK VINCENT E. VALERIO &
ASST. PROF. FLORANTE E. DELOS SANTOS*

Research is a rigorous and painstaking activity in the pursuit of academic excellence. As such, it is a real challenge to complete a paper because doing research entails discovering something new; analyzing, and interpreting data; supporting and opposing prior studies; predicting various scenarios; etc. The reward for finishing and accomplishing such a punctilious task, however, contributes not only to one's academic achievement but also to one's self-esteem and ultimately, self-fulfillment.

Without a doubt, Google and other open-source tools are good means to explore possible references, processes and data illustrations, and writing styles but these may also become problematic since it may still pose challenges on accuracy and integrity.

Turn it Up with Turnitin and Other Research Tools

The University of Makati, among other HEIs, is one with responding to the challenge of improving research outputs by acknowledging proper citation and identifying plagiarism. For this reason, the Center for University Research (CUR) initiated the acquisition of Turnitin and other research tools such as Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) subscription, NVIVO, and in the future, Grammarly, to empower the UMak community in their research initiatives.

Turnitin became handy for the CUR in identifying

plagiarized statements in several documents and research outputs submitted for different purposes. The usefulness of the software and the ease of using it prodded CUR to distribute Turnitin accounts to research coordinators and faculty members. The Turnitin Draft Coach was distributed to all students and employees, who wish to do similarity checks on their drafts and outputs.

In terms of processing data, CUR acquired two research tools, NVIVO and SPSS. For qualitative research and mixed methodology, a crucial part of doing research is processing and illustrating data. CUR has been using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) to aid in analyzing statistical data for research outputs. Students, administrative employees, and faculty members have benefited from the smooth and seamless derivation and treatment of statistical data from the gathered survey materials. Since qualitative research uses a range of methods, including observations, textual or visual analysis (for example, from books or videos), and interviews (individual or group), NVIVO is an appropriate research software tool for qualitative and mixed-methodology studies. The software will aid the center and researchers in interpreting data more efficiently and logically. Ensuring cohesion and writing clarity, another software tool used by the Center to aid in detecting grammar issues, inconsistencies, and incorrectness is Grammarly.

The University of Makati's Center for University Research came to the aid of its faculty members by acquiring research tools that are conducive to research. With a P3,270,000.00 four (4) year subscription and an annual renewal of P600,000, these numbers reflect the support of the City Government of Makati on the goals and initiatives of UMak in upholding its research standards and advancing the research culture of the University.

RISE OF THE HERONS



^ Surprising the entire UMak Community, OIC Pres. Ramos with the Management Committee announced and awarded the Professorial Medallions to selected faculty members for their academic achievements during the Opening Salvo of UMak's 50th Founding Anniversary.

Tales and Perspectives: Roundtable Discussion with UMak Achievers

Another way to equip the faculty, students, and university personnel with the know-how of research is to create a platform where scholars can share their experiences, knowledge, and expertise. This prompted the CUR to organize a Roundtable Discussion (RTD) which was designed for newly minted professors to pique the interest of observers of the event to pursue academic excellence through research. The RTD was launched last March 24, 2022 in the opening month of the 50th Founding Anniversary of the University.

The RTD commenced with the opening remarks of the Vice President for Planning and Research, Prof. Ederson DT. Tapia, who called the event a “red-letter day” as it was an opportune time to trumpet the academic achievements of the full professors namely, Dr. Joel B. Mangaba from the

College of Computing and Information Sciences, Dr. Maria Fay Nenette M. Cariaga from then College of Allied Health Studies, Dr. Susan C. Guevarra from the College of Science, Dr. Lolita G. Musa from the College of Education, and Dr. Ma. Rowella D. Baliao from the College of Arts and Letters.

Beyond the invested tools, the tales and perspectives shared by each speaker hopes to inspire the UMak community to brave through the challenges and hurdles of academic research, not only to widen the horizons of their disciplines but also to pave the path for the University's journey towards fully realizing its vision and mission.

^ As a follow through of the awarding of Professorial medallions, the Center for University Research organized a roundtable discussion entitled “Achiever's Perspectives: Inspiring UMak's Visions” last March 23, 2022.

Triumphs in the Better Normal

The pandemic experience and leapfrogging out of it have allowed us to adapt, be more fluid, open, and responsive to our world today. Albeit modest triumphs, the CUR's achievements in the better normal symbolize the small but crucial steps taken not only to bounce back but also to leap into the envisioned future of the Center for University Research.

UNIVERSITY OF MAKATI
www.umak.edu.ph

5th RESEARCH CONGRESS
Nurturing Approaches in Education for a VUCA World

SPEAKERS

Dr. John S. Kuo
Vice President, China Medical University, Taiwan

Dr. Grace Brillantes-Evangelista
Executive Director, Integrated Health and Well-being (IAWI) Center, Miriam College

Dr. Jason Vincent A. Cabanes
Associate Professor, Department of Communication, De La Salle University

Prof. Ederson DT. Tápia
Vice President for Planning and Research, University of Makati

Engr. Luke Ivan B. Moro
Vice-President for Finance, University of Makati

Assoc. Prof. Rey S. Medenilla
Director, Center for Curriculum and Research Development, University of Makati

Asst. Prof. Fiorante E. Delos Santos
Director, Center for University Research, University of Makati

OCTOBER 19 TO 5:00 PM
OCTOBER 20 TO 5:00 PM

MULTIMEDIA ROOM 507
EMPLOYEES HALL 1 AND PHYSICAL SCIENCE BLDG.,
UNIVERSITY OF MAKATI

via zoom

Addressing the theme “Nurturing Approaches in Education for a VUCA World”, the 5th University Research Congress attempted to elaborate how we may face a world that is volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous through various perspectives and research from different disciplines. Crossing over from the online program for 2021, this year, the CUR launched a hybrid two-day program which started with wisdom imparted by OIC President and VP for Academic Affairs, Prof. Elyxzur C. Ramos,



^ Opening the 5th Research Congress is Dr. Grace Brillantes-Evangelista who shared their project entitled “Cultivating Well-being in School Communities” with findings from their research on “Developing Mental Health Protocol Within School Systems in Metro Manila and Ilocos: A Participatory Action Research” with Miriam College - Department of Psychology, Department of Health, and Philippine Council for Health Research and Development.

CESE, PhD. He expressed that as a faculty, it is inherent upon each one not only to be very good in instruction, not only to reach out to the community through extension but to further their profession through the area of research. He emphasized that the local government of Makati will continue to support all faculty, especially in the area of research.

Filled with brilliance and fresh perspectives, speakers from different sectors discussed their take on VUCA and how their organizations adapt programs, perceive issues, and discover opportunities given this type of educational environment.

On Day 2, nineteen (19) research papers from faculty members, students, and university personnel who successfully passed the double-blind and meticulous evaluation out of the fifty (50) abstracts submitted and evaluated were presented. Another series of evaluation will be accomplished to determine the quality of papers to be published in UMak’s official research



ANDREW GONZALEZ
PHILIPPINE CITATION INDEX



journal, the UNIVERSITAS.

UNIVERSITAS is also at the forefront of CUR's triumphs. Receiving recognition from the Andrew Gonzales Philippine Citation Index (AGPCI), partnership with Philippine E-Journals hosted by C&E Publishing, Inc., and receiving the approval of the journal by the National Library for Electronic International Standard Serial Number, proves the steady and growing success of UMak in engaging in partnership with the community to develop their research writing prowess.

With Universitas' triumphs, the City Government of Makati's Publication Incentives Program, also rewards employees whose researches are published in the said journal. With a publication incentive of P5,000 for every article that is successfully included in the Universitas, the local government actively supports and encourages research among its personnel for their continual growth and education. In 2021, the September

and November issues were published and distributed for free, and seventeen (17) articles qualified for publication incentives of P85,000 in total.

Heeding the constant call for a more vibrant response and engagement in research to maintain what higher education institutions are expected to deliver in presenting and publishing research outputs, CUR's tools, tales, and triumphs empower the UMak community to rekindle the passion and culture of research.

###

A Shift in Mind and Heart

Education is the one legacy that nobody can take away from you, according to an old proverb. No matter how severe one's living circumstances are, our elders have always highlighted the value of education as a way to improve one's quality of life. This adage has never been more accurate than it was during the COVID-19 outbreak. Despite the pandemic's financial and physical effects, students braved through with their education.

The Technology-Based Learning Center believes that it is equally important to consider what could be feasible for education after the

University of Makati in 2020.

Going Beyond the New Normal

The Learning Management System of UMak is the beginning of our digital journey to empower learning, training and development of faculty members and learners alike, thus, encouraging growth mindset, aiming for success, and driving its digital culture to new heights. To really achieve all these in the spectrum, the Technology-Based Learning Center needs to be driven by intelligent and modern solutions.

In May 2022, the TBL Center was given the platform to explain the Classroom of Tomorrow which was an idea of Vice President

COMING TOGETHER IN TECHNOLOGY: THE CLASSROOM OF TOMORROW AND THE FUTURE WORKFORCE OF UMAK

BY. ASST. PROF. STANLEY FERNANDEZ, MPA

DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY-BASED LEARNING

COVID-19 epidemic, in addition to the urgent issues. The moment has come to develop a strategy for capitalizing on the increased support for education in nearly every community on the planet and to envision how education may emerge from this global crisis stronger than ever before.

A school that is “powered up” and makes use of the best partnerships, including those formed during CoViD-19 pandemic, to support students' holistic development of a wide range of competencies, is adaptive and resilient. Technology and partnerships have played the most part in this paradigm since the TBL Center was formed as the lead office for digitalizing teaching and learning experiences in the

for Administration Jewel Bulos and later on adopted by Asst. Prof. Stanley Fernandez as the strategic direction of UMak's hybrid learning. He explained that in order to satisfy the demands of a developing national industrial economy, higher education in neighboring regions underwent significant changes in the 19th and 20th centuries. Today, higher education is undergoing another transformation, this time to meet the demands of a digital, global information economy.

According to Lawrence Bacow, president of Harvard University, “higher education will continue to uphold its existing goals and organizational structure while gradually adapting to new circumstances”. Similarly, UMak's initial



project during the pandemic was focused on upgrading the IT infrastructure requirement to better work with remote online learning.

Without going to the various motions, the Management Committee finds it logical that informatization, digitization and digitalization will benefit from these IT infrastructure developments therein.

Flexible Space is Key to the Future of Learning

A new pedagogical method has emerged as a result of the contemporary Information Age. Learning may be done in ways that are more active, collaborative, self-paced, adaptive, experiential, and individualized. Despite current trends, it is important to critically study recent advancements in learning theory, didactics, physical spaces and digital education technology in light of higher education's growing digitization

The distinction between physical and virtual learning is blurred by the use of digital technology, which also provides options for flexible learning. For example, the Classroom of Tomorrow project of the University of Makati symbolizes how students are driven to learn in a more personalized way where they can be presented with options and further turn

technology into their companion. A preferred method of teaching that fits with the impending fourth industrial revolution is known as Education 4.0. This is where the Classroom of Tomorrow comes into play.

Smart technology, artificial intelligence, and robots are the main topics of this industrial revolution; they already have an influence on our daily life. In UMaK, our focus is how learning spaces can be the intelligent solution for learners and instructors, whether they are in-campus, mobile or in the comfort of their own homes. This includes incorporating lessons about new technologies into their college life, completely altering study orientations, and leveraging this technology to enhance face to face learning in the future normal.

The Classroom of Tomorrow is essentially a SMART classroom that is tailored with the program offerings and digital capabilities of the learners and their instructors. This is where learning spaces in UMaK are enhanced with IT technologies, specifically designed to improve teaching and learning experiences. A SMART classroom allows instructors to manage more than one class section at a time and educators can easily adapt their teaching styles in the new classroom orientation to meet the different needs of the learner.

A variety of interactive edtech tools are available in a SMART classroom, enabling students to learn, collaborate, and invent in amazing ways while meeting the individual learning needs of each student. The UMak standard SMART classroom is a teacher-led learning environment with a computer, interactive whiteboard, internet connectivity, projector as standard equipment, LED monitors for online video meetings and a multimedia AV capturing device. While professors still conduct instruction in front of the class, smart technologies give students more chances to engage with the material, the instructor, and one another. It also fosters the continuous creation of digital materials for teaching and learning purposes.

Automation and the Future of the Workforce

The fact that the world and how we conduct business have irrevocably changed is no longer breaking news. Global economies are suddenly pushed onto a new trajectory, compelled to adapt in order to survive, rather than the gradual ascent toward a borderless, digital society. With evolving responsibilities, connections, and needs, the workplace and workforce of the University of Makati are already taking a new shape.

The fast emergence of remote work, innovation, and automation has been made possible by the pervasiveness of technology and the digital economy. Now that UMak is seen to embark on these new orientations, the question of what the future of the institution looks like, and what it means for the workforce of today can no longer be ignored. Working remotely and effectively from anywhere in the country without sacrificing the quality of interactions has never been simpler because of the developments in digital and unified communications that enable real-time audio and visual connection.

We were propelled into the future quicker than anticipated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Even though the unknown is unsettling, we must view it as an opportunity rather than a problem. The way we see it, this is our chance to innovate, change, and welcome more people into the future normal, where everyone can advance on a more equal playing field. Finally, it is pivotal to note that the new opportunities coupled with an unstoppable digital economy shape the workforce and workplace of the future.

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ONWARD TO THE NEXT 50 YEARS: UMAK'S ROAD TO WURI 2023

*EXCERPT FROM **UMAK JOINS THE SEARCH FOR
WORLD'S UNIVERSITIES WITH REAL IMPACT 2023** BY
ASST. PROF. LORNA M. ESQUIVEL*

As the University of Makati is still in the year of celebrating its golden jubilee, another milestone was ushered in when it received an invitation to join the search for World's Universities with Real Impact or WURI 2023. Prof. Hwy-chang Moon, Founding Director of The WURI Ranking and Professor Emeritus of the Graduate School of International Studies of Seoul National University came to rather timely as a few weeks back, UMak's OIC President

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^ The Technical Working Group from different academic and administrative units of UMak presented their outputs to the Management Committee for possible revisions before submitting it to World's Universities with Real Impact or WURI.

expressed his vision for the university to be part of the world rankings.

A Technical Working Group (TWG) was immediately formed following a memorandum from the OIC-President Prof. Elyxzur C. Ramos last September 8, 2022. At the helm is Assoc. Prof. Jayson Bergania, Director of the Center for Quality Management and Development as Chairman, and Vice President Prof. Ederson DT. Tapia as the Supervising Management Committee official. The members who were tapped to prepare documentation and requirements for submission came from different colleges and centers with support groups from Center for Quality Management and Development and Center for Planning and Development.

The first coordination meeting took place last September 13, 2022, which led to the clustering of the members according to the six categories of WURI entries. These clusters have an assigned coordinator and members who worked together and rigorously documented

and gathered pertinent data and evidence for the designated entries. On a sunny morning on October 18, 2022, the TWG members presented all written and revised entries to the Management Committee officials who lauded the team for the detailed and well-written entries. Sharing both the enthusiasm and excitement, the ManCom officials also gave suggestions to make the entries more substantial and relevant for the search

Finally, on a rainy and cool day on October 28, 2022, 21 entries across six categories were submitted to the WURI Application System. Full of hope and passion, the University of Makati joined this first-ever university ranking endeavor to continuously challenge itself to achieve greater heights and discover how else it can transform into an institution of excellence and innovative standard.

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Center for Planning and Development
Center for Integrated Communications

2022