



CHS 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

A. STUDENTS

In education, supporting students is fundamental to fostering a positive and nurturing learning environment. At the heart of our mission is a steadfast dedication to providing comprehensive support that addresses the diverse needs of every learner. This includes offering personalized academic guidance to help students navigate their educational paths, promoting emotional well-being through counseling and mentorship programs, and equipping them with practical resources to overcome challenges and thrive.

Our commitment extends beyond academics, emphasizing the holistic development of students. By creating an inclusive and empowering atmosphere, we aim to inspire confidence, resilience, and a sense of belonging. Through these efforts, we ensure that every student has the opportunity to excel not only academically but also personally and socially, preparing them for success in their educational journey and beyond.

Philippine Nurses Licensure Examination (PNLE) 2024

In the May 2024 Philippine Nurses Licensure Examination (PNLE), the College of Health Sciences (CHS) at MSU-IIT achieved a historic milestone by attaining a perfect 100% passing rate, with all seven examinees successfully passing the board. This achievement underscores the institution's unwavering commitment to academic excellence and its dedication to producing competent, compassionate, and globally competitive nursing professionals.

Building on this exceptional accomplishment, MSU-IIT sustained its remarkable performance in the November 2024 PNLE, where all 77 examinees also achieved a flawless 100% passing rate. This consistent success further cements CHS's reputation as a center of excellence in nursing education.

Key Events and Milestones

1. First CHS Alumni Homecoming

- **Date:** December 19, 2024
- **Venue:** CHS Hall, MSU-IIT

CHS hosted its first-ever college-based alumni homecoming, reuniting graduates from



various batches to celebrate shared legacies and honor the contributions of faculty members who played pivotal roles in their academic and professional journeys.

2. Student Achievement in Powerlifting Championship

A sophomore nursing student showcased exceptional talent by winning three medals at the Dewfoam Mindanao Powerlifting Championships 2024, held on November 23-24 at the Atrium Robinsons, General Santos City. This achievement highlights the holistic development of CHS students.

3. 'Pagpangga: A New Vision for Senior Care'

- **Date:** November 23, 2024
- **Venue:** CHS Hall, MSU-IIT

The event, organized by Project ABEL and CHS Executive Council (CHS-EC), engaged students, youth advocates, and community members in discussions about improving the quality of senior care in the Philippines.

4. Community Health Nursing Orientation

- **Date:** September 20, 2024
- **Platform:** Zoom

In partnership with the Iligan City Health Office, CHS held an orientation for Level 2 nursing students, focusing on public health engagement despite challenges posed by the Pagpakanaog holiday.

5. 19th Capping, Badge Investiture, and Candle Lighting Ceremonies

- **Date:** September 13, 2024
- **Venue:** MSU-IIT Gymnasium

The ceremonies marked a significant milestone for 129 second-year nursing students as they transitioned to hands-on clinical practice. This symbolic event highlighted their readiness to embrace the responsibilities of the nursing profession.

6. Leadership Training and Turnover Ceremony

- **Date:** September 7, 2024
- **Venue:** CHS Hall, 4th Floor SET Building

The CHS-EC hosted a leadership training and turnover ceremony with the theme "Passing the Torch: Strengthening Leadership, Unity, and Service in the College of Health Sciences."

7. 10th International Nursing Summer School Participation

Two Level 4 BSN students represented CHS at the 10th International Nursing Summer



School in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, held from July 22 to August 3, 2024. The delegation earned a special award, showcasing CHS's global engagement in nursing education.

8. 15th Pinning and Ringhop Ceremony

- **Date:** July 5, 2024
- **Venue:** Frostybytes Garden Hall, Iligan City

The College celebrated the achievements of newly graduated nurses during the 15th Pinning and Ringhop Ceremony, signifying their entry into the nursing profession.

9. Participation in Medical Missions

Senior nursing students actively contributed to a medical mission organized by the Iligan City Government on February 20, 2024, further demonstrating CHS's commitment to community service and healthcare.

10. Recognition at the Gawad Serbisyo Awards

- **Date:** August 16, 2024
- CHS-EC was recognized as one of the top-performing organizations during the inaugural Gawad Serbisyo Awards, held by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Services.

Summary

The College of Health Sciences at MSU-IIT has demonstrated outstanding performance and unwavering dedication to excellence in 2024. Through its achievements in licensure examinations, community service, international collaborations, and holistic student development, CHS continues to uphold its commitment to producing globally competitive nursing professionals and fostering a culture of academic and professional excellence.

Philippine Nurses Licensure Examination (PNLE) 2024

In the May 2024 Philippine Nurse Licensure Examination (PNLE), MSU-IIT achieved a historic milestone, recording a perfect 100% passing rate as all 7 examinees successfully cleared the board. This remarkable feat reflects the institution's steadfast commitment to academic excellence and its dedication to producing competent and compassionate nursing professionals.

Building on this success, MSU-IIT sustained its exceptional performance in the November 2024 PNLE, once again attaining a flawless 100% passing rate. All 77 examinees showcased their



proficiency, readiness, and dedication to the nursing profession, further cementing MSU-IIT's reputation as a center of excellence in nursing education.

MSU-IIT proudly tied with 15 other universities for the top spot, achieving a perfect overall passing rate with 77 examinees. This distinction places the institution among the country's top-performing nursing schools, a recognition granted to institutions with 50 to 99 examinees and a minimum passing rate of 80%.

These achievements underscore the unparalleled quality of education and training provided by MSU-IIT. They highlight the collaborative efforts of faculty, staff, and students in upholding the highest standards of nursing education. By fostering a culture of academic rigor, innovation, and resilience, MSU-IIT continues to prepare its graduates to excel in their professional roles and contribute meaningfully to the healthcare sector.

CHS Alumni Reflect on College Legacy at First Homecoming

The **College of Health Sciences (CHS)**, formerly known as the College of Nursing, hosted its **first-ever college-based alumni homecoming** on December 19, 2024, bringing together graduates from various batches to celebrate their shared academic roots and express gratitude to the faculty who guided them through their formative years.

The event was filled with nostalgia and appreciation, as alumni reflected on the pivotal role CHS played in shaping their careers. "I had a very strong foundation," said **Dr. Karen Siladan**, a pioneering alumna of CHS, during her speech. She credited her clinical instructors for instilling the essential skills that made her career journey smoother. "Dili nako maglisod [sa skills]," she added confidently.

Another alumnus echoed this sentiment, saying, "Thankful kaayo [ko] kay naa jud quality education [sa MSU-IIT] with the help of our clinical instructors."

Celebrating Alumni Success

Dean Abdullah Junior S. Mangarun, DScN, MAN, RN, expressed pride in the accomplishments of CHS alumni, particularly their recent success in the **Philippine Nursing Licensure Examination (PNLE 2024)**, where the college achieved a **100% passing rate**.



“The success of our alumni is also our success,” Dr. Mangarun remarked. “Hopefully, the knowledge we instill in them will never fade.”

Looking Forward

During the event, alumni provided valuable recommendations for improving the college's practices, particularly in supporting students to excel in board exams. Dr. Mangarun also shared updates on the ongoing construction of the first CHS building at the MSU-IIT Hinaplanon campus. “The 3rd level of the building will be a hospital simulation,” he revealed, reflecting the college's commitment to innovation and excellence in nursing education.

Building Connections Across Generations

The homecoming also featured lighthearted moments, including games like the **“Bring Me” nurse edition**, which fostered camaraderie among attendees from different batches. Despite a modest turnout of fewer than 50 registered participants, the event saw strong representation from the **2024 batch, Invictus Medicus**.

Addressing the challenge of increasing attendance in future gatherings, **Asst. Prof. Nona Krislin G. Jopillo, MAN, RN**, an alumna from the 2014 batch (Les Desireux) and the college's Alumni Focal Person, emphasized the need for thorough planning and representation from all batches.

“Dili paman gud established amoa alumni members, and must be represented from each batch,” Prof. Jopillo explained.

Gratitude and Giving Back

The event organizers extended heartfelt thanks to alumni sponsors, including **Ashley Cao Hok, Karen Siladan, Frances Lavinie Escalante, Nicolai Indangan, Elenore Espinosa Pirante, and Celine Wee**, whose generosity contributed to the event's success.

Currently enrolled nursing students were also invited to join the celebration, fostering a spirit of intergenerational connection. One student nurse shared, “Kung mu-graduate ko, mu-sponsor pod ko para makapakaon og students,” reflecting the theme of this year's homecoming: **giving back to their alma mater, Dakilang Pamantasang Mindanao**.

A Legacy of Excellence



The first CHS alumni homecoming served as a testament to the enduring legacy of the college and its faculty, celebrating the achievements of its graduates while building a foundation for stronger alumni connections in the years to come.

Lifting the Tides: Nursing Student Clinches Three Medals at Powerlifting Championship

A sophomore nursing student from the **College of Health Sciences (CHS)** has made waves in the world of powerlifting, securing **three medals** at the **Dewfoam Mindanao Powerlifting Championships 2024**, held on November 23-24 at the Atrium Robinsons in General Santos City.

In his debut competition, **Mohammad Raafi Pangandaman** proved that determination and perseverance can lead to greatness. Competing in the **Under 93 kilograms** division, Raafi claimed two gold medals in the **Junior** and **Collegiate categories** and a silver medal in the **Novice category**.

A Rising Powerlifting Star

Raafi's stellar performance included lifts of **202.5 kg in the squat**, **105 kg in the bench press**, and **255 kg in the deadlift**, totaling an impressive **562.5 kg**. His achievements have earned him a spot in the **National Championships**, scheduled for February 21, 2025.

Balancing the demands of academics and athletics was no easy feat for the first-time powerlifter. "I am both a powerlifter and a nursing student, and it wasn't easy to make sacrifices for one or the other," Raafi shared in a social media post. "But despite the challenges I faced, I persevered. It takes a lot of mental strength and physical wellness to be able to pull through." His journey stands as a testament to his resilience and commitment to both his studies and his sport.

Team Success

Raafi's success was further amplified by his collaboration with **John Robert Mamauag**, a senior Computer Science student from the College of Computer Studies. Together, the duo dominated the **Collegiate Team category**, securing first place, and achieved second place in the **Novice Team category**.

Aiming for National Glory



With the National Championships on the horizon, both Pangandaman and Mamauag are determined to bring home further accolades, representing not just their colleges but also the **Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT)**.

The journey of these students is a powerful reminder of how academic excellence and athletic achievement can go hand in hand, inspiring others to pursue their passions with grit and determination.

'Pagpangga: A New Vision for Senior Care' Engages Youth in Senior Welfare

Project ABEL and the College of Health Sciences Executive Council (CHS-EC) Community Extension Committee recently hosted the event **"Pagpangga: A New Vision for Senior Care"** on November 23 at the CHS Hall. This significant gathering brought together students, youth advocates, and community members to discuss the state of senior care in the Philippines. Originally planned during National Elderly Week, the event aimed to explore how the youth can be actively involved in improving the quality of life for older adults.

"We have the vision; we can do the legwork; we have the energy; we have the vigor," said **Hannah Valerie Acama**, Project Manager of Project ABEL, when asked why youth involvement is crucial in senior welfare.

The event featured insightful contributions from **CHS Dean Assoc. Prof. Abdullah Junior S. Mangarun**, RN, MAN, DScN, and **Assoc. Prof. Mae-Lanie O. Poblete**, RN, MAN, DScN—experts in gerontology within the college—who highlighted the numerous challenges older adults face and explored ways society can better support them.

"Aging is a continuation, not a transformation," Dean Mangarun emphasized, stressing the importance of recognizing the continuity of a person's identity and life experiences. Prof. Poblete expanded on this by advocating for a holistic approach to elder care, pointing out that aging brings changes not only in physical health but also in emotional and social well-being—areas that must be addressed to ensure comprehensive support.

Acama also highlighted the significance of collaboration with CHS-EC, noting that incorporating nursing perspectives was essential for understanding and improving elderly care. "We believe in the perspectives they could offer. The primary aim of this initiative, as reflected in the title, is



to revitalize senior care by involving all sectors—not just key institutions like the DOH. The youth can play a significant role too,” she said.

Kean Maegan Lacastesantos, CHS-EC Board Member and co-coordinator of the event, echoed this sentiment, emphasizing that community service should extend beyond hospital settings. “What I always say, even during my MX days, is that community work—serving others—shouldn’t be limited to our hospital duties. Let us look beyond and just be ourselves when serving others and the community,” Lacastesantos shared.

To encourage active participation, attendees engaged in a pitching activity where they shared ideas on how they could help the elderly. Acama hopes these ideas will eventually be translated into action, believing that these projects could be implemented in the community with proper funding and support.

“I believe it always starts with awareness, with information dissemination, but at the same time, we should have the intention to help. It goes both ways—you have the intention to help, but you also need to take action,” Acama explained.

The event demonstrated the power of collaboration in creating real change. As Acama put it, this initiative is about more than just raising awareness; it’s about turning good intentions into concrete actions that can make a lasting difference for the elderly community.

Additionally, Acama emphasized the sense of responsibility that comes with being part of a state university, highlighting how initiatives like this reflect a commitment to serving others.

“As someone in a state university, I feel that I owe something to the masses because this is free education. I want to give back, and this is my way of doing so,” Acama shared.



CHS Holds Orientation for Nursing Sophomores, Encourages Students to Engage in Public Health

Despite logistical challenges posed by the Pagpakanaog holiday, the Iligan City Health Office (CHO) successfully conducted a Community Health Nursing (CHN) orientation for MSU-IIT College of Health Sciences (CHS) Level 2 nursing students today, September 20, via Zoom.

This online event aimed to introduce students to the processes and current status of public health in Iligan City, preparing them for their first community exposure next week on September 27.



Venus Sanchez, Nurse IV and Head of Technical Services at CHO Iligan, delivered a comprehensive presentation outlining the types of services offered by the health office. She highlighted specific targets and achievements aimed at improving the health of Iligan residents.

Sanchez emphasized the nurse's role in providing proper health education to communities, aimed at eliminating health risks and improving population health outcomes. "Before ta mahimong nurse, mag teacher sa tag una," she stated. "Our number one role as [public health] nurses is [towards] advocacy," she added.

Sanchez also noted the ongoing construction of super health centers in barangays Digkilaan, Del Carmen, and Kabacsanan—efforts to enhance health services for Geographically Isolated and Depressed Areas (GIDA) in the city.

Meanwhile, Level 2 nursing student **Katrina Lumando** shared her eagerness to join the public health workforce after passing her licensure exam.

"During the orientation, I was overwhelmed by the information, but at the same time, I felt motivated... I want to specialize in Public Health Nursing after the boards, God willing," Lumando revealed.

The 3-hour orientation was organized by CHS administration and faculty, hosted by **Asst. Prof. Johanna Jiel Padogdog-Cortes**.

It is worth noting that another previously scheduled orientation for **Gregorio T. Lluch Memorial Hospital (GTLMH)** clinical exposure had been canceled earlier this morning.

129 Nursing Students Honored in the 19th Capping, Badge Investiture, and Candle Lighting Ceremonies

On September 13, 2024, the **19th Capping, Badge Investiture, and Candle Lighting Ceremonies** marked a pivotal milestone for 129 second-year nursing students as they transitioned from classroom-based learning to hands-on clinical practice. Held at the MSU-IIT gymnasium, the event symbolized the students' readiness to embrace the responsibilities and values of the nursing profession.

A Message of Inspiration



The program opened with an inspiring message from **Dr. Abdullah Junior S. Mangarun**, Dean of the College of Health Sciences (CHS). He congratulated the students and reminded them of the values and responsibilities they carry as they don their caps and badges. "This moment marks not just a milestone but also a commitment to uphold the highest standards of care and compassion in your journey as future nurses," he said.



Alumni Wisdom

The ceremony also featured **Michael Zaimyr Khalif P. Guinta, RN**, a distinguished alumnus, as the guest speaker. Sharing wisdom and life lessons, he urged the students to embrace their agency and chart their own paths. "You hold the power to define who you are. Do not let others dictate your journey," he encouraged, leaving a profound impact on the audience.



Symbols of the Nursing Profession

The ceremony celebrated the symbolic transition of the students into the clinical phase:

- The **cap** represents their role as student nurses, ready to step into the world of practical nursing.
- The **lamp** symbolizes the light of knowledge and their commitment to compassionate care.
- The **badge** signifies their formal entry into the nursing community and their adherence to its professional standards.

A Celebration of Commitment

The event stood as a testament to the dedication of the students and the unwavering support of the College of Health Sciences in guiding them toward excellence. It served as a reminder of the noble path ahead as they embark on the journey to become competent and compassionate nursing professionals.



The 19th Capping, Badge Investiture, and Candle Lighting Ceremonies not only honored tradition but also ignited the spirit of service and care within the next generation of nurses.

Handing Over the Reins: CHS-EC Hosts Leadership Training and Turnover Ceremony

The College of Health Sciences - Executive Council (CHS-EC) held its Leadership Training and Turnover Ceremony on September 7, 2024, at the CHS Hall, 4th Floor SET Building, under the theme, "Passing the Torch: Strengthening Leadership, Unity, and Service in the College of Health Sciences."

Assoc. Prof. Elvie A. Paler, CHS-EC adviser, opened the event with an inspiring address on the vital role of unity in leadership. She emphasized how collaborative efforts among student leaders significantly contribute to the excellence and success of the student body.

Through the guidance of outgoing chairperson Shakira Farhana T. Derico, who is also the director of MSU-IIT Youth Chain of Peace (MYCOP), incoming CHS Executive Council officers reinforced their understanding of team dynamics and honed their skills in goal-setting to advance the organization's mission.

A workshop led by Mr. Elmar Albios from the Office of Student Development Services (OSDS) followed, where he outlined the permit processing and essential guidelines for planning successful events both within and outside the campus.



The official handover of responsibilities took place, alongside the awarding of Certificates of Recognition to the outgoing officers, acknowledging their dedication and hard work.

Kevynne De Guzman, the incoming college governor, delivered an acceptance speech, expressing her commitment to upholding the values of leadership, service, and action.

The ceremony concluded with closing remarks from Edmark John Baga, CHS-EC Training and Development Chairperson, marking a new chapter of leadership in the college.

CHS Students Shine at 10th International Nursing Summer School; Special Award Earned

Adrajie Ramos Dida-Agun and Bhylle Gayle Pacina, both incoming Level 4 Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students from the **College of Health Sciences (CHS)** at Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT), participated in the **10th International Nursing Summer School (INSS)** held from **July 22 to August 3, 2024**, at Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta (UMY) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. They were accompanied by CHS faculty member **Dr. Neil M. Martin**.



A Global Platform for Learning and Exchange

The 13-day program, hosted by UMY's **Department of Nursing, Faculty of Medicine and Health**, attracted participants from across the globe. Themed "*Harmony in Healthcare: Summer School on Islamic and Cultural Integration in Nursing Practice*," the event featured a mix of educational and cultural activities aimed at fostering learning, cross-cultural exchange, and collaboration among nursing students.

Educational Highlights

Participants engaged in a diverse set of activities, including:

- **Lectures and Tutorials:** Focused on cultural competence, psychosocial concepts, and transcultural nursing principles.
- **Skills Lab and Community Service:** Practical sessions enhancing clinical and community engagement skills.
- **Objective Structured Clinical Exams (OSCE) and Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ):** Assessing clinical knowledge and application.
- **Poster Presentations:** Students created digital or hand-drawn posters on *Traditional Medicine-Based Culture*, promoting awareness and appreciation of cultural practices in healthcare.

Cultural and Social Programs

The event also offered enriching non-academic experiences:



- **Workshops and Tours:** Participants explored the art of Gamelan music, pottery making, and visited landmarks such as Kraton Yogyakarta, Sonobudoyo Museum, and Malioboro.
- **International Night:** Celebrating diversity through traditional ethnic garments.



Recognition and Achievements

During the closing ceremony, several participants were recognized with special awards:

- **Bhylle Gayle Pacina** (MSU-IIT CHS, Philippines) earned the **Best Dressed** award during International Night.
- Other awardees included **Jehann Lopez** (St. Anne Lucena, Inc., Philippines) for Best Male Participant, **Amatullah Faatima** (Islamic International University Malaysia) for Best Female Participant, and **Nurul Asyiqin** (Islamic International University Malaysia) for Best MCQ with a score of 21 points.

Comprehensive Objectives of the Program

The INSS 2024 aimed to cultivate a broad range of competencies in participants, focusing on:

1. Psychosocial concepts and cultural competence in nursing.
2. Principles of transcultural nursing and culturally sensitive interventions.
3. Communication skills and assessment of psychosocial and cultural needs.
4. Ethical, legal considerations, and the impact of cultural diversity on healthcare systems.
5. Collaboration, advocacy, and reflective practice.

Bridging Knowledge and Culture



The **10th INSS** combined education, culture, and social engagement to develop participants' skills, knowledge, and global perspectives. The program continues to stand as a testament to the value of international collaboration in shaping future leaders in nursing.

MSU-IIT CHS takes pride in its students' active participation and achievements, reflecting the college's commitment to excellence and global engagement in healthcare education.

Swimming with the Sharks: A Freshman's Glimpse into Nursing School

The CHS Hall was alive with a mix of hushed voices, hurried footsteps, and nervous energy as freshmen gathered, each holding tightly to their ambitions. Some exchanged shy smiles, while others laughed nervously, unsure of what lay ahead. The sound of zippers being traced and feet shifting betrayed the unease beneath their composed exteriors. Yet, there was a shared sense of excitement—students eager to connect, to feel like they belonged.

The day began with a welcome address from CHS Governor Adrajie R. Dida-Agun, followed by a stunning performance from sophomore Beatriz Kathryn C. Aballe. Dressed in a flowing black gown, Beatriz's voice filled the room—gentle yet powerful, capturing the audience in awe. The quietness of the crowd was broken only by bursts of nervous laughter and chatter, as freshmen entered in various sports attire, channeling their own creativity to fit the 2024 Olympics theme.

As the freshmen soaked in the moment, seniors looked on with a mix of nostalgia and encouragement. Their memories of first entering this unfamiliar space came flooding back—facing both excitement and uncertainty. Seniors offered advice, sharing heartfelt stories from their own experiences, creating a sense of community and hope. The day became a reminder of the academic journey that lay ahead—one that, while filled with challenges, could also be navigated with strength and support.

The room pulsed with energy, and Dr. Abdullah Junior S. Mangarun, Dean of the College of Health Sciences, addressed the students with a steady gaze. His voice resonated, capturing the attention of every freshman. "You are the chosen few," he said, referring to the top 120 out of over 4,000 aspiring nurses. His words sank in—a reminder that they had made it here through determination and resilience, not luck.

Freshmen were introduced to their teachers, each a 'shark' in their own right, and given practical advice from seniors on what to expect in their first year. The event closed with the freshmen



writing letters to their future selves—reflecting on their hopes and fears. The room softened, pens gliding across pages, each thought a blend of excitement and uncertainty.

As applause filled the hall, the genuine warmth of their shared beginning resonated—appreciation for the Executive Council's efforts to create this space for connection. Despite the seniors' demanding final year, they invested time to ensure freshmen felt welcomed into college life.

Leaving the hall, freshmen carried not only memories but a clearer picture of the path ahead. The promise of growth hung in the air, made real by the support of peers and mentors alike. Today, they may be 'baby sharks,' but soon they'll be navigating the ocean with confidence and purpose.

OVCSS Hosts First-Ever Gawad Serbisyo Awards; CHS-EC Among Top Performing Organizations

Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT), through the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Services (OVCSS), held its inaugural Gawad Serbisyo Awards on August 16, 2024, at the University Gymnasium. This landmark event establishes a new tradition, recognizing the outstanding contributions of student organizations, student publications, and Resident Cultural Groups (RCGs) to campus life.

Among the top 10 best-performing student organizations honored was the College of Health Sciences-Executive Council (CHS-EC). The leadership body's dedication to expanding resources, engaging students, and addressing critical issues in health sciences has set a benchmark for other organizations across the Institute.

The award bestowed upon the CHS Executive Council highlights the group's commitment to excellence and its significant impact on the university community. "This achievement reflects our hard work, passion, and teamwork. This recognition motivates us to keep raising the bar and contributing positively to both our college and the university as a whole," said Adrajie Dida-agun, CHS EC governor. He emphasized the importance of active engagement, camaraderie, compassionate service, and leadership in shaping the university's culture of excellence.



“What makes it even more special is that we achieved this with a small team. It shows that our strength isn’t in our numbers, but in the passion and commitment of every member,” shared Edmark John Baga, an EC board member.

The Gawad Serbisyo Awards reflect MSU-IIT’s dedication to nurturing the vital role these groups play in enhancing the student experience. By acknowledging their efforts, the university not only fosters a culture of excellence and innovation but also encourages collaboration and community engagement.

The Caduceus Uncovered: The Vision Behind the Words

The College of Health Sciences at MSU-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT) has long been recognized as a beacon of excellence in nursing education, research, extension services, and innovative programs. This steadfast commitment has solidified the college’s reputation as one of the top institutions in its field, nurturing a community of learners and professionals dedicated to advancing health sciences.

Building on this legacy, **The Caduceus** now emerges as the Official Student Publication of MSU-IIT’s College of Health Sciences. With a commitment to honor and excellence, **The Caduceus** seeks to amplify the voices and stories within the college, fostering a deep awareness of the critical intersection between science, health, and community.

As a pioneer in this vital domain, **The Caduceus** is dedicated to delivering accurate, timely, and impactful information that educates and empowers communities across Mindanao. By highlighting crucial health issues such as the rising prevalence of chronic kidney disease (CKD), inadequate healthcare facilities, scientific breakthroughs, and public health initiatives, **The Caduceus** transforms complex medical information into accessible insights that resonate with everyday lives.

Designed by Fatmah Zuhra Lomondot, a freshman in the college, **The Caduceus** seal—featuring the snake-coiled staff of the Greek god Asclepius—epitomizes the publication’s mission to serve as the harbinger of factual science and health stories for the college community and the general public. This emblem serves as a visual reminder of the publication’s role in fostering a deeper understanding of health issues and promoting informed dialogue within the community.



A fountain pen, symbolizing **The Caduceus'** primary mission to disseminate credible information, inspires the public to engage in investigative pursuits and make well-informed decisions, providing the knowledge necessary to navigate complex health topics confidently.

Three-feathered wings, echoing the Institute's logo, signify the publication's alignment with the University's values of excellence, honor, and service in performing its journalistic duties. These wings represent **The Caduceus'** commitment to advancing conversations on science, health, and community matters, embodying MSU-IIT's mission to contribute meaningfully to society.

As **The Caduceus** upholds piety to truth and excellence, it invites you to join its pioneering members on a journey of discovery, insight, and conscientious reporting. The publication emphasizes its aspiration to lead with transparency and expertise. By aligning its visual identity with these core values, **The Caduceus** enhances its reputation as a reliable and impartial voice in health journalism.

With each issue, **The Caduceus** delivers not just news, but a guiding light of knowledge and integrity to society. Be part of the mission to highlight the path to a healthier, more informed community—because at **The Caduceus**, the quest for truth begins.

On to Science, Health, and Community!

CHS conducts 15th Pinning and Ringhop Ceremony

The College of Health Sciences (CHS) proudly held its 15th Pinning and Ringhop Ceremony for newly graduated nurses on the afternoon of July 5, 2024, at the Frostybytes Garden Hall, Purdue St., Celdran Village, Tubod, Iligan City.

This special occasion honored the seventy-eight nurse graduates of Batch 2024, **Invictus Medicus**, under the theme: *"Empowering Future Nursing Leaders: Building Strong Communities, Advocating for Healthcare for All, and Inspiring Nursing Excellence."*

The event commenced with a formal opening by CHS Dean Dr. Abdullah Junior S. Mangarun, DScN, RN, who was joined by Assistant Dean Dr. Art Brian S. Escabarte, PhD, RN, Clinical Coordinator Mr. Rambe C. Ramel, Jr., MAN, RN, and Research Coordinator Dr. Gloria Shiela E. Coyoca, PhD, RN, during the pinning ceremony.



The guest speaker for the event was Mr. Christi Fidelis E. Hinacay, RN, a distinguished alumnus of MSU-IIT CHS (Batch 2016-2017) and currently a Senior Intensive Care Unit Staff Nurse at the CDO Polymedic Medical Group. In his inspiring address, Mr. Hinacay reflected on the graduates' journey, acknowledging their hard work and perseverance through challenges, from return demonstrations to clinical duties. He posed a thought-provoking question to the graduates: *"Are you ready?"*

Drawing from his experience as a dedicated professional nurse committed to patient care, Mr. Hinacay emphasized the importance of attitude in overcoming challenges. *"Knowledge and experience are essential, but having the right attitude is what truly matters. With the right mindset, you'll move past panic and focus on what's most important—your patients,"* he said, inspiring the graduates to approach their new roles with confidence and compassion.



The program continued with the presentation of plaques and tokens, followed by the recognition of academic awardees. DG Franz Ceasarius S. Sumaylo, Summa Cum Laude,



delivered the Valedictory Address, while Anjela D. Basan, the Class Salutatorian, gave a heartfelt Tribute to Parents, with a response from the Parents' Representative, Genalyn S. Sumaylo.

Reya T. Seno, Undergraduate Curriculum Coordinator, led the graduates in reciting the **Nightingale Pledge**, a symbolic commitment to the ideals of nursing, followed by the **Nurse's Prayer**, led by CHS Faculty Dr. Roselyn M. Butalid, PhD, RN.

The ceremony concluded with closing remarks from Assistant Dean Dr. Escabarte. Serving as the Master of Ceremonies was CHS Lecturer Mr. Val Clinton S. Maybituin, MN, RN.

The Pinning and Ringhop Ceremony is a time-honored tradition in nursing, tracing its origins to the 12th century. It symbolizes the formal transition from student to professional nurse, marking a pivotal milestone in the lives of the graduates who have successfully completed the rigorous requirements of the nursing program.

CHS Senior Nursing Students Join Medical Mission

Senior nursing students from Block AAA of the **College of Health Sciences (CHS)** at **Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT)** participated in a medical mission organized by the **City Government of Iligan** on **February 20, 2024**. The team was led by CHS faculty member and Clinical Instructor, **Assistant Professor Nona Krislin Gonzales Gomez-Jopillo, MAN, RN**.

The event, part of the **“Serbisong Iliganon Caravan 2024”**, was held at the Barangay Del Carmen gymnasium and aimed to provide free medical care and address immediate health concerns of the residents. The initiative was organized by the **City Health Office** in collaboration with various government agencies, non-governmental organizations, non-profits, and healthcare volunteers.



Free Medical Services Offered

Hundreds of residents benefited from an array of free on-site medical services, including:

- Medical consultations
- Circumcision (tuli)
- STI/HIV counseling and testing
- Consultations for persons with disabilities (PWDs)
- Dental consultations and extractions

Nursing Students in Action

While fulfilling their community duty at Barangay Del Carmen's Health Station, the CHS senior nursing students seized the opportunity to participate in the health caravan. This allowed them to:

- Respond to their calling as healthcare providers by delivering essential care and support.
- Share knowledge through health teachings.
- Apply and refine their nursing skills in a real-world setting.

The experience also enabled the students to expand their expertise and gain valuable insights into community health, preparing them for their future roles as registered nurses.



A Successful Community Initiative

The success of the **Serbisyong Iliganon Caravan 2024** can be attributed to the dedication of the medical mission team, healthcare volunteers, and the unwavering support of Iligan's local government officials. The program fostered a sense of community and solidarity, contributing to the overall well-being and development of society.

This hands-on experience not only enriched the nursing students' education but also reinforced their commitment to making meaningful contributions to public health.