

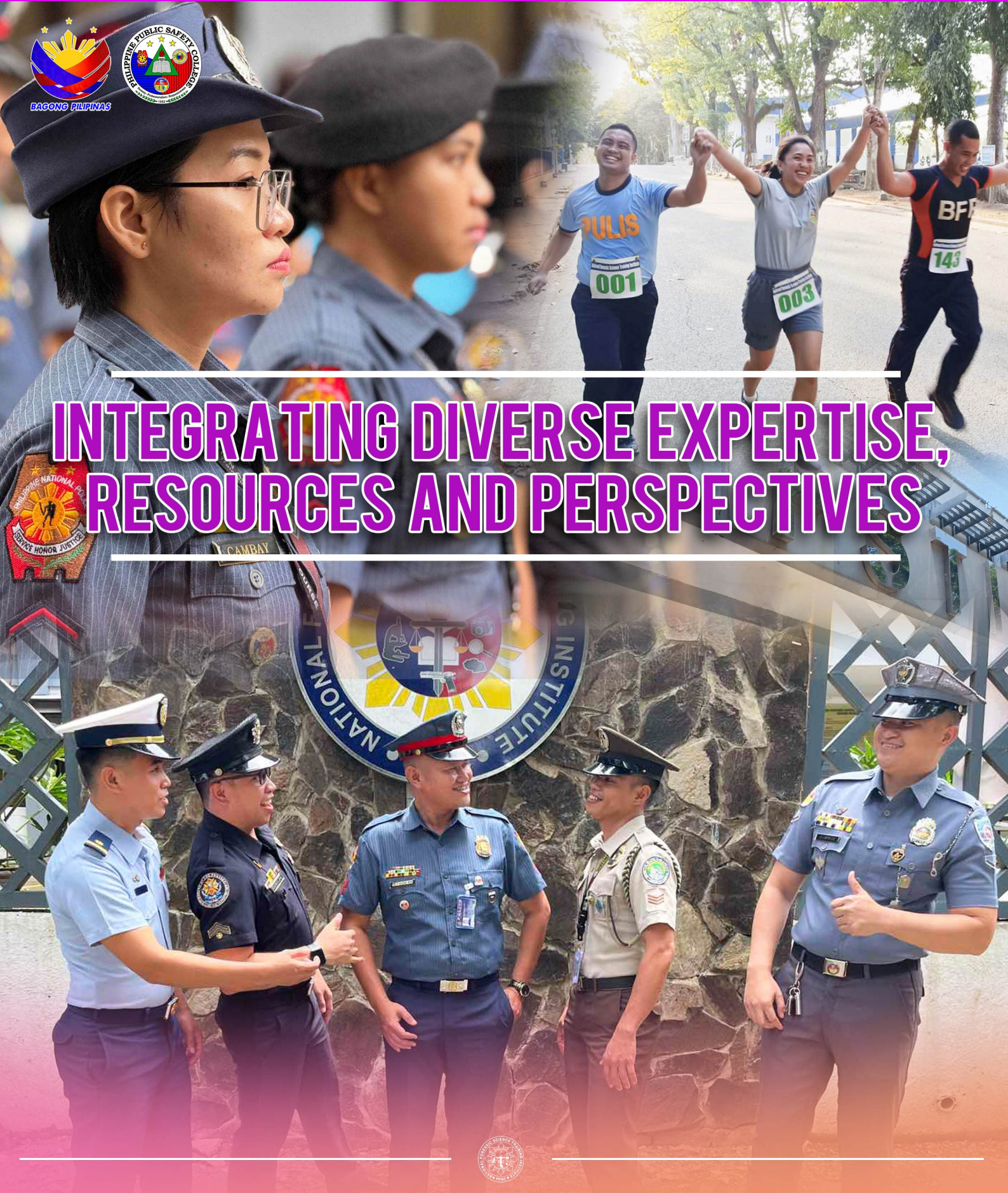
THE INVESTIGATOR



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INTEGRATING DIVERSE EXPERTISE, RESOURCES AND PERSPECTIVES



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Training in collaborative criminal investigation is essential now more than ever because crime is growing more sophisticated and goes beyond borders. The methods and competencies of individuals entrusted with countering criminal activities must also adapt to the changing nature of these threats. This evolution is best achieved through collaboration—a concept that extends beyond mere cooperation to integrating diverse expertise, resources, and perspectives.

Given the complexity of contemporary crime, investigative methods must shift from being isolated to one that emphasizes teamwork at all levels. Training in collaborative crime investigation is not only advantageous but also necessary. It improves interagency communication, increases resource efficiency, cultivates community trust, and encourages creative thinking. As the twenty-first century progresses, let's embrace cooperation in our training programs to make sure that our investigators are not only knowledgeable and resourceful but also cohesive in their pursuit of justice.

ABOUT THE COVER



This issue's cover showcases NFSTI's diversity. To improve inter agency cooperation and its capacity for conducting criminal investigations, it seeks to extend its training to other affiliated services. When law enforcement agencies work together, they can more effectively use resources, share information, solve problems creatively, maintain jurisdictional coordination, develop community trust, support training

and capacity building, and make cutting-edge technology possible. Each of these elements helps to make crime resolution more successful and effective. Likewise, the purple color symbolizes women and gender empowerment, which is part of the training agenda of the NFSTI.

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MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT

Let me extend my warmest congratulations to the National Forensic Science Training Institute (NFSTI) for the successful publication of their official newsletter, "The Investigator" for the 1st semester of 2024.

This publication stands as a testament to the dedication, hard work, and scholarly excellence of the editors, contributors, and everyone involved in the process. Your commitment to advancing knowledge and fostering intellectual discourse is truly commendable. Your diligence and professionalism guarantee that our newsletter will always be a shining example of academic excellence.

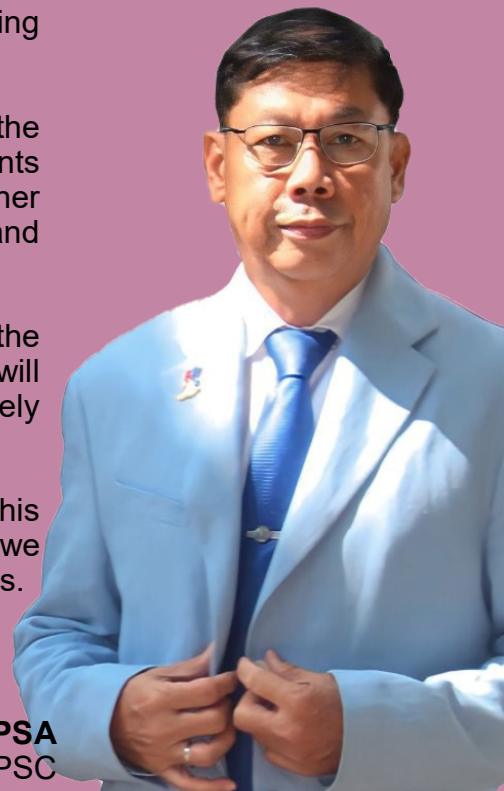
In these pages, we find diverse insightful articles and news that reflect the highest standards of training the NFSTI provides. The accomplishments achieved for the first half of the year is worth highlighting to further enrich our understanding and pave the way for future discoveries and advancements in public safety and security.

As we commemorate this noteworthy accomplishment, let us embrace the future with a fresh sense of purpose and drive. By working together, we will keep expanding our expertise, breaking down barriers, and positively impacting both the global and local communities.

Once again, congratulations on this remarkable accomplishment. May this issue of the "The Investigator" enlighten readers and inspire action as we collectively pursue transformation and reinvention under Bagong Pilipinas.

Mabuhay, NFSTI!


PBGEN FERDINANDO G. SEVILLA (Ret.), MPSA
President, PPSC



MESSAGE OF THE DIRECTOR

I am happy with our accomplishments in the first half of 2024. Over the past six months, I have seen the effort and dedication of the NFSTI staff in providing the most responsive training in Crime Investigation and Detection. This is a concrete example of how an organization can be successful through its people.

Our progress in the first half of 2024 has been significant, particularly in our efforts to foster a culture of inclusivity. This is a testament to the collaborative life force and relentless pursuit of excellence demonstrated by our teams. I am particularly proud of the strides we have made in this area through our Institutional Strengthening Activity and continuous learning. The skills and perspectives gained from our recent training and seminars have equipped the team to remain responsive to the ever-evolving needs of our students.

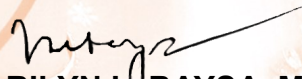
For the remaining half of 2024, we will continue to drive innovation in training and nurturing a supportive and dynamic work environment. The journey is filled with opportunities, and I am confident that, together, we will continue to achieve great things for our students and, eventually, the community.

I want to sincerely appreciate every team member for their passion, hard work, and dedication. Not only are your contributions valued, but they are also the primary factor in our accomplishments. Leading such a gifted and dedicated group is an honor, and I sincerely appreciate your hard work.

We are grateful to our partners for their steadfast trust and cooperation, which are essential to our success. We are eager to carry on our collaboration and reach new heights as a team.

Thank you for your continued support. Cheers to a successful and inspiring 1st Half of 2024!

Warm regards,


DR. MARILYN L. BAYSA, MPSA
Director, NFSTI



NFSTI CELEBRATES 28 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE WITH THE THEME "NFSTI: GREAT@28"

In a jubilant celebration marked by reflections on past achievements and a vision for the future, the National Forensic Science Training Institute (NFSTI) commemorated its 28th founding anniversary. The milestone event, themed "NFSTI: Great@28," highlighted the organization's remarkable journey in providing the most responsive curriculum in crime investigation and detection courses. NFSTI has emerged as a pioneering force driving scientific and technological advancements in crime investigation training. Through its multifaceted initiatives and strategic collaborations, NFSTI has played a pivotal role in nurturing investigative skills, initiating collaborations, and promoting investigators with a character, values, and caring culture to others. The anniversary celebration at the NFSTI-Rizal Hall brought together eminent personalities from the PPSC Headed by President PBGEN FERDINANDO G SEVILLA (Ret), MPSA, academe, public safety and security leaders, and partner agencies. The event highlighted NFSTI's contributions and recognized subject matter experts and institutions that helped the Institute achieve its objectives in the past year. NFSTI's 28 years of existence is evidence of its tenacity, flexibility, and an unrelenting dedication to producing the nation's greatest and brightest crime investigators. As NFSTI embarks on its journey into the future, guided by the theme "NFSTI: Great@28," it reaffirms its position as a cornerstone of the country's premiere institution in honing the investigative skills of professionals in the public safety and security sectors, poised to shape the nation's destiny through a more robust and sound judicial system.



Above: PLTGEN RICARDO F DE LEON (Ret), MPSA, Ph.D. , Director General, National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA), receives the Plaque of Appreciation from PPSC President, FERDINANDO G SEVILLA (Ret), MPSA and NFSTI Director, Dr. Marilyn L. Baysa, MPSA. Below: NFSTI Staff having photo opportunities with the Pres. PPSC, Director General NICA, and PPSC Constituent Unit Directors.



INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING ACTIVITY



This year's Team Building Activity themed "One Goal, One Spirit, One NFSTI" was held at LARESIO Lakeside Resort and Spa in Los Baños, Laguna. The said activity underscored the importance of unity within the team, highlighting how it strengthens and emboldens the Institute.



Left: Dr. Marilyn L. Baysa, MPSA, Director, NFSTI, giving the welcome remarks to the participants of Lights Zumba. Extreme Top: The NFSTI Staff showing their skills and strategies to different tasks during the team building.

LIGHTS ZUMBA

The Zumba Lights event at NFSTI was held at PRO4A CALABARZON. It emphasized the health and wellness of students and personnel. With the collaboration of NFSTI, NFTI, NJMPTI and PPSA, the Zumba Lights event was successfully done.



Above: Team NFSTI in their elegant and formal dress during the Gala Night.

2024 GALA NIGHT

This event was also part of the NFSTI anniversary. It was a night where the beautiful ladies and gentlemen of NFSTI showcased their performances, specifically through cotillion dances. This event created lasting memories for the students and staff of the institute, providing a classic and vibrant experience to be cherished.

MALASAKIT *Program*



NFSTI Tree Planting at Barandal Elementary School and Calamba Hills Phase 2, Barandal Calamba City Laguna. March 4, 2024

The tree-planting event also served as a platform for community engagement. Local schools, environmental groups, and residents joined the institute, demonstrating the power of collective action in addressing environmental challenges. The NFSTI personnel volunteered their time and effort, showcasing the strong culture of teamwork and environmental responsibility within the institute. The involvement celebrates the ongoing commitment to positive environmental change. Looking to the future, the NFSTI remains dedicated to sustainable practices and community engagement, ensuring its legacy is one of both innovation and environmental stewardship.



LECTURE IN HEALTH CONSCIOUSNESS FOR THE ELDERLY



Free consultation/check-up for the senior citizens of Brgy Barandal was given by Dr. Nimfa Putong and JSInsp Ivy Dela Cruz, MD with help from NFSTI nurses who took their vital signs and HGT blood test.

In line with the month-long celebration of the Institute's 28th anniversary which coincided with the National Women's Month in March, NFSTI conducted its Malasakit Community Extension program last March 12. A lecture on health consciousness was conducted and free medical check-up/consultation was given. The said program was held at Calamba Hills Clubhouse and the participants were the senior citizens from Barangay Barandal.

The program formally started at 9:30 in the morning with an invocation by Ms. Mari Dominique Satuito. This was followed by a message from the President of Calamba Hills Homeowners Association, PBGen Michael I. Baysa (Ret). After which, the participants were introduced by Mr. Roel Bantayan.

The lecture on health consciousness was conducted by Dr. Nimfa Putong an infectious disease specialist, a Professor IV at NPC and a MPSA fellow. The participants were made aware of the changes their bodies undergo physically and mentally. When the lecture was done, a free check-up and consultation led by JSInsp Ivy Dela Cruz, M.D., Chief of the Research and Development at the BJMP National Headquarters- Directorate for Health Services, followed. Some vitamins and maintenance medications were also given away to them after consultation, to complete the program.

To end the program, the guest medical doctors were awarded certificates of appreciation for their contribution.



Awarding of certificates to our invited medical doctors by Dr. Marilyn L Baysa, NFSTI Director with the officers of Calamba Hills Homeowners Association and NFSTI staff.



Pat Yokotani A Nasungan



J01 Mike Arnel P Gallarda



Pat Michael M. Ciego

Respeto

Composed by : J01 Mike Arnel P Gallarda
Original Chorus featured by: Lloyd Tembrevilla

CHORUS:

BAKLA TOMBOY DAPAT NATING RESPETOHIN
DAHIL TAO DIN SILA TULAD NATIN
WAG IKAHIYA TOMBOY KA MAN O BAKLA
ANG IMPORTANTE DI KA NAG PAPABAYA

Verse 1:

PANO ba masasabi na silay dapat respetuhin
ano ang gagawin upang silay matanggap atin
ano ang basihan dito sa ating mundo
upang ang katulad nila respituhin bilang tao

dahil ba bakla o tomboy isa nang makasalanan
dahil ba kakaiba pwedi na nating pagtawanan
walang silbi ika nila salot daw sa lipunan
walang puwang sa langit at dapat nang parusahan

itoy kaunti lamang sa aking naririnig
dapat ng baguhin natin at pag ibig ipalit
respeto ay pairalin kaysa ng manghusga
ano ba yong kasalanan wala naman diba

buksan na ang mga mata at ang tingang nakatakip
respeto para sa lahat wag na nating ipagkait
para sa lahat ng tao isa lang aking dalangin
bakla man o tomboy silay dapat na respituhin

REPEAT CHORUS:

Verse 2 :

wag mong ikahiya ang iyong pagkatao
sa mga paninira wag kang magpatalo
di mo kailangang magpanggap para lang e respeto
dahil sa mata ng Dios lahat tayo dito'y pareho

wag kang magpapanggap panindigan mo yan
di mo kailangang itago dahil ginusto mo yan
lagi mong tandan at sana iyong isa-isip
kung di ka nila tanggap ang sarili wag ipilit

wag kang mag papa apekto sa mga taong negatibo
bakla ka man o tomboy may Karapatan kang e respeto
katayoan o estado wala yang halaga
ginawa ka ng panginoon kasi mahal ka nya

mga mukhang epokrito akala moy perpekto
di naman isang reporter magbalita parang sino
bastos kong mag husga ang sakit pa magkumento
mga feeling na propheta yon pala isang demonyo

REPEAT CHORUS:

Verse 3 :

sa mga nanghuhusga alam nyo bang pakiramdam
na ikay lait laitin sa mundo ay isuklam
ikay tawaging malas at salot sa mundo
ang pag tanggap sa kanila bakit mahirap sa inyo

hindi nyo ba napapansin silay nahihirapan
bakit ba kayo ganyan ano inyong pinaglalaban
dahil ba kakaiba sila kong manamit
dahil ba kakaiba pwedi ka na bang manakit

dahil ba sumalungat ang kanilang gusto
rason na ba iyon para sila di e respeto
dahil sa mga ganyan silay nahihirapan
araw araw na pasakit kanilang dinadaan

wag na nating dagdagan buksan mo na ang iyong isipan
ginusto nilang maging ganyan yan ANG katutuhanan
bakla man sila o tomboy importante masaya
respeto para sa lahat respeto sa isat-isa

REPEAT CHORUS:

IMAGINE REALITY



Lyceum of the Philippines—Batangas' BS Forensic Science OJTs with the finger print experts.

Imagine a Philippines where justice is swift and fair, where court trials hinge on scientific evidence as the primary basis for convicting criminals. Picture a government that adequately funds all branches of forensic science, enabling them to stay current with the latest technologies. Envision an independent institution dedicated to providing all necessary scientific analyses for criminal cases, delivering accurate, authentic, and unbiased findings—unaffected by race, gender, social standing, or any form of discrimination. Finally, imagine a society where every Filipino fully understands the potential of forensics, ensuring that only the guilty are convicted, while the innocent are protected.

As students pursuing a Bachelor of Forensic Science, we were thrilled on our first day of classes. What began as a mere curiosity about police investigations, sparked by fictional series, had grown into a genuine opportunity to understand the reality behind those successful convictions. We were eager to learn how perpetrators are identified and brought to justice. This excitement stayed with us for a long time. We were especially keen to take subjects that revealed how accurately the depictions on digital platforms reflect real life. However, our satisfaction waned when we realized how far behind our country lags in terms of equipment and technology for forensic examinations. We are still in the early stages of proving the capabilities of forensic science. For instance, forensic DNA databases, which are crucial for identifying individuals involved in crimes, are well-established in countries like the United Kingdom, Malaysia, and the United States. Yet, here in the Philippines, we are still awaiting the approval of Senate Bill 2474, authored by Senator Ronald Dela Rosa, which aims to create a national DNA database—a proposal that still has a long way to go before it becomes law (Senate of the Philippines, 2024). Can we keep up with the rapid advancements in forensic science, or will we remain content with our limited resources?

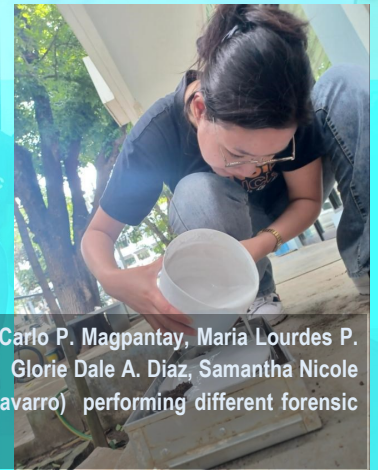
As we progress in our studies, we are becoming more aware of what lies ahead in our careers. We've reached a point where we are exposed to the agencies that train uniformed personnel and provide forensic services in the country. We are grateful to the National Forensic Science Training

Institute (NFSTI) for allowing us to complete our internship in their modest office. Our time there was a roller-coaster ride.

At times, we felt reassured that we had chosen the right path, as the institute continues to provide valuable opportunities for forensic science students. The possibility of a board exam for our program is now being discussed, and we just need to be patient. But we don't always feel motivated. There are moments of internal crisis when we hear people question why we chose such a risky path with uncertain employment prospects. Will our jobs really be uncertain?

On the other hand, our internship at the PNP Regional Forensic Unit 4A gave us a chance to experience the real work of a forensic examiner. We rotated through various divisions, including firearms identification, chemistry, medico-legal, and physical identification. The staff were welcoming and eager to help us become the best versions of ourselves, preparing us for future careers in this field. We engaged in tasks like test-firing, analyzing cartridge and bullet markings, conducting inventories, performing drug tests, and observing autopsies. Did we make the right choice, or did we just waste our time?

We made the right choice! We still see how important forensic science is, and would definitely want to be part of making an impact in the development of our justice system.



BS Forensic Science OJTs (Kervin Carlo P. Magpantay, Maria Lourdes P. Magtaas, Leizel Joy D. Macalindong, Glorie Dale A. Diaz, Samantha Nicole D. Barretto and Lance Jethric D. Navarro) performing different forensic science practical exercises.



After attending the lecture, the BS Forensic Science OJTs pose for a picture with the digital forensic expert.



CRIDEC SPORTS AND

The National Forensic Science Training Institute (NFSTI) successfully conducted the Opening Ceremony of the much-awaited CRIDEC Sports and Skills Olympics 2024 last April 8, 2024 with the guest of Honor and Speaker PBGEN LUIS MARIA TIBLE PASCUAL, Deputy Director, National Police Training Institute. The sports & Skills Olympics is friendly competition, showcasing the hidden and unknown talents, for the week-long celebration sporting events included Basketball, Volleyball, Table Tennis, Dart, Chess, Company run, Mobile Legend, & Battle of the Brain. Showcasing of talents for cheer dance competition.

Day one was a blast! The celebration formally opened with a colorful parade of the four (4) company's, IDC ALPHA, BRAVO, TIC, & NIC exhibiting with pride their own banners. Marching forward with NFSTI staff and Director National

Forensic Science Training Institute, Dr. Marilyn L Baysa, MPSA, were the companies, flashing their banners and showcasing the beauty of their Muses.

Roars and cheers filled the crowd with faces showing excitement and chills. Chief Admin, NFSTI Vergel O Santiago delivered his opening remarks, quoting "Success is not about winning the game but how you play the game". After the opening was the presentation of the participating team by FSINP Joseph R Cadag, followed by the Declaration of Opening of the Sports and skills Olympics of CRIDEC Class 2023-02, Alpha, Bravo, TIC, & NIC by Director, NFSTI. Dr Marilyn L Baysa, MPSA.

Meanwhile, players recited the Oath of Sportsmanship, led by PMSG John Rei Sotero



Guest of Honor and Speaker, PBGEN LUIS MARIA TIBLE PASCUAL, Deputy Director, National Police Training Institute giving his message to the CRIDEC Students during the Opening Ceremony.

SKILLS OLYMPICS

Bernardino, as a promise and commitment to respect the rules and play fairly.

Lastly, the ceremony ended with an encouraging and motivating message from guest of honor and speaker PBGEN LUIS MARIA TIBLE PASCUAL, Deputy Director, National Police Training Institute,

The sport and skills Olympics will not be complete without the much-awaited parts of the program which include the cheer dance competition. All were perplexed as they sat and witnessed the astounding performances. No heat could be felt as the floor already heated up with their breathtaking executions.

The cheer dance prowess of the CRIDEC Class 2023-02 Alpha, Bravo, TIC & NIC was proven to be on another level with the performances from each company. With their emotional dance display, the Traffic Investigation Course (TIC) finished as the champion in the cheer

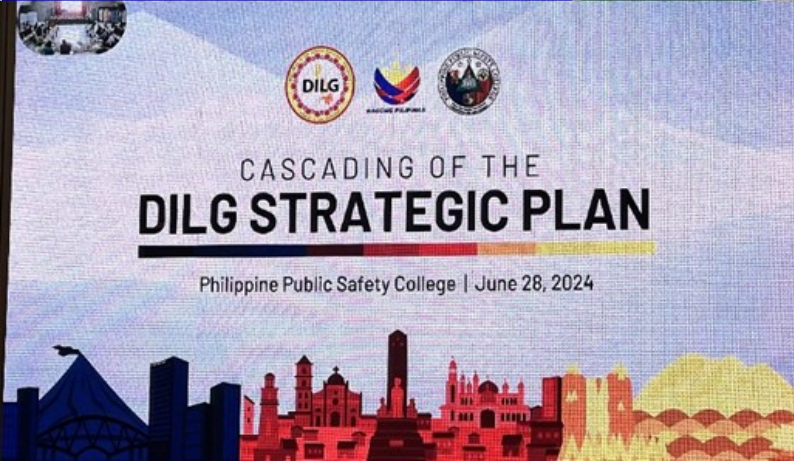
dance competition. The runners-up were as follows; Narcotics Investigation Course (NIC), Investigation and Detection Course, Bravo, & Investigation and Detection Course, ALPHA.

On the 2nd second day, all games officially started. The jocundity was all over. Each competing teams prepared yells for basketball, volleyball, Table Tennis, Dart, Company run, and Mobile Legend. Only two (2) games remained silent despite the noisy crowd, those I called a silent alley in a busy cheering mob, where the game of chess and battle of the brain was being played.

The week-long celebration ended with an awarding ceremony as the closing program, and the most awaited the MR. and MS CRIDEC 2023-02.

The IDC ALPHA, was declared the overall champion, followed by the second (2nd) place Traffic Company, Third (3rd) place the Narcotics Company, and the fourth (4th) place IDC BRAVO.

GLIMPSE ON THE CASCADING OF THE DILG STRATEGIC PLAN 2023 - 2028



The NFSTI was represented by the following: Planning Officer (Ms. Mari Dominique O. Satuito) Budget Officer (Ms. Maripaz C. Yalo) , Personnel Officer (Ms. Marjorie Rodriguez). The PPSC President PBGen Ferdinando Sevilla enjoins all PPSC Employees and CUs to align their respective plans with the DILG Strategic Plan 2023-2028 towards "Bagong Pilipinas".

On June 28, 2024, the Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC) facilitated the Cascading of DILG Strategic Plan 2023-2028 to all PPSC officials, employees, and constituent units.

The event aimed to ensure alignment of the goals and objectives of the PPSC with the overarching strategic direction set by the DILG, fostering synergy and collaboration across government agencies.

During the session, Opening Message and Guidance were delivered by Usec. Jonathan D. Tan, Undersecretary for Plans and Programs. Significantly, key points on Charting the Direction and Designing the Future: the DILG Strategic Plan 2023-2028 were highlighted by Assistant Secretary for Plans and Program Francisco Cruz, CESO III, MMG. In addition, the Director of the DILG Planning Service, Dir. Vivian P. Suansing elaborated on the Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation of Strategic Plan.

PPSC President Ferdinando G. Sevilla (Ret), MPSA, discussed

the PPSC Strategic Commitment and Strategic Directions. He reiterated the continuous determination and commitment of the PPSC along with its CUs, to achieve and accomplish its vision, and expressed in his presentation that these were aligned to the DILGs Strategic Plan.

He underscored the significance of the organization's strategic alignment and cooperation among all PPSC employees and CUs to the DILG Strategic Plan towards advancing the nation's agenda for sustainable development and effective governance.

This was followed by the Ceremonial Signing of the Pledge of Commitment by all officials from DILG and PPSC and its Constituent Unit Representatives.

The DILG Officials urged all PPSC employees and constituent units to integrate these strategic priorities into their day-to-day activities and long-term term-planning, ultimately contributing to the overall progress and development of achieving common goals.

CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION, INNOVATION AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

January 24, 2024 marks a significant history for National Forensic Science Training Institute (NFSTI) and Lyceum of the Philippines University – Batangas (LPU-Batangas). Specifically, the College of Criminal Justice System Education of LPU-Batangas has sealed a partnership with the NFSTI through Memorandum of Understanding. The understanding is to exchange information on academic and character development, teaching methodologies, and research activities related to the advancement of the training being provided to the human resources under the public safety and security sectors.

The Memorandum of Understanding was held at the Philippine Public Safety College Head Office at Quezon City. DR. CECILIA C. PRING, Vice-President for Academics and Research of LPU-Batangas and PPSC President, PBGEN FERDINANDO G SEVILLA (Ret), MPSA gave their messages of circumstances. Their messages highlighted the importance of collaborations and sharing of knowledge among agencies to establish relationship and adapt expertise and best practices. The highlight of the event is the official signing of the MOU by the key personnel from PPSC-NFSTI and LPU-Batangas.

The initiative is deeply rooted in the NFSTI Malasakit Community Program which is to collaborate with the universities and colleges to provide an avenue and opportunity for forensics and safety training to be at par with the international standards. Likewise, the partnership is in support to the LPU-Batangas to nurture the character and values of the future law enforcers of the country to develop a deep sense of nationalism and patriotism.

All of efforts are aimed at enhancing public safety and security training and education.

Viva La Pirata! Mabuhay NFSTI!



PPSC President, PBGEN FERDINANDO G SEVILLA (Ret.), MPSA and DR. CECILIA C. PRING, Vice-President for Academics and Research of LPU-Batangas showing the signed MOU between PPSC-NFSTI and LPU-Batangas. In photo are the PPSC and LPU-Batangas Key Officials

(CYBERSECURITY SEMINAR) GUARDIANS OF THE DIGITAL REALM: EMPOWERING PPSC EMPLOYEES



Photo shows NFSTI Personnel (from left) Mr. Ian Mark Martin, Mr. Hernan Reginio, Ms. Marjorie Rodriguez, Mr. Vergel Santiago, and Ms. Grace Pacheco, together with Ms. Soliel Mulya-Ibias, MIT, PPSC President PBGen Ferdinando Sevilla, Mr. Gelen Salagusta (Resource Speaker), PCOL Froilan P. Elopre (VP for Administration).

On June 27, 2024, five (5) NFSTI Personnel participated in the cybersecurity seminar hosted by the PPSC, entitled "Guardian of the Digital Realm: Empowering PPSC Employees in the face of evolving cyber threats, held at the PPSC Head Office MPSA Classroom.

The activity aimed to enhance cybersecurity awareness and preparedness of PPSC Employees in the face of cyber threats.

Mr. Glenn Salagusta, the Head of the IT Security Operations of City Savings Bank provided his expertise. He shared insights on cybersecurity's relevance and the latest cybersecurity risks. He also offered some preventive measures and enlightened everyone about the best practices for safeguarding digital assets.

In addition, participants gained an understanding of practical cybersecurity protocols, basic incident response strategies, and the importance of maintaining data security in today's digital landscape.

This event served as PPSC's pivotal platform, allowing employees to strengthen their cyber security skills, safeguard confidential information, and contribute to a more secure digital environment within the organization.

PBGen Ferdinando Sevilla, President of PPSC, emphasized the organization's dedication to developing a cyber-resilient culture and providing its employees with the resources they need to successfully defend against cyberattacks

MOTIVATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY PROFESSIONALS

On May 22, 2024, the NFSTI, represented by Vergel O. Santiago, the Chief of the Academic Affairs and Administrative Unit, has the distinct honor of being invited as a panelist at the 6th Career Congress for Criminal Justice Education students at Lyceum of the Philippines - Batangas. The event was meticulously organized to provide Criminology and Forensic Science students with a comprehensive understanding of the career opportunities and challenges in criminal justice, guiding them as they transition from academic life to professional careers.

The Career Congress brought together students, educators, and professionals from various sectors of the criminal justice system, including law enforcement, forensic science, legal studies, and corrections. The primary objective was to offer students practical insights into the diverse career paths and help them understand the skills and qualifications required to excel in these roles.

As a panelist, Mr. Santiago shared experiences from both the academic and corporate worlds. With a background in economics, applied training, and research, he provided a unique perspective on the intersection of these fields with criminal justice. He emphasized the importance of an interdisciplinary approach in criminal justice, where knowledge from various fields can be integrated to solve complex problems.

He engaged with students in a lively and interactive session during the panel discussion along with other panel



A warm welcome for Mr. Vergel O. Santiago, Chief Academics and Admin Unit of the National Forensic Science Training Institute.

members from the uniformed services. The students were eager to learn about the real-world applications of their studies and how they can prepare themselves for successful careers. Mr. Santiago highlighted the importance of continuous learning and adaptability in a rapidly evolving field like criminal justice and character development. He also discussed emerging trends, such as the growing role of technology in crime investigations training and the increasing demand for professionals who are not only skilled in traditional criminal justice roles but also adept at handling technological advancements and data analysis.

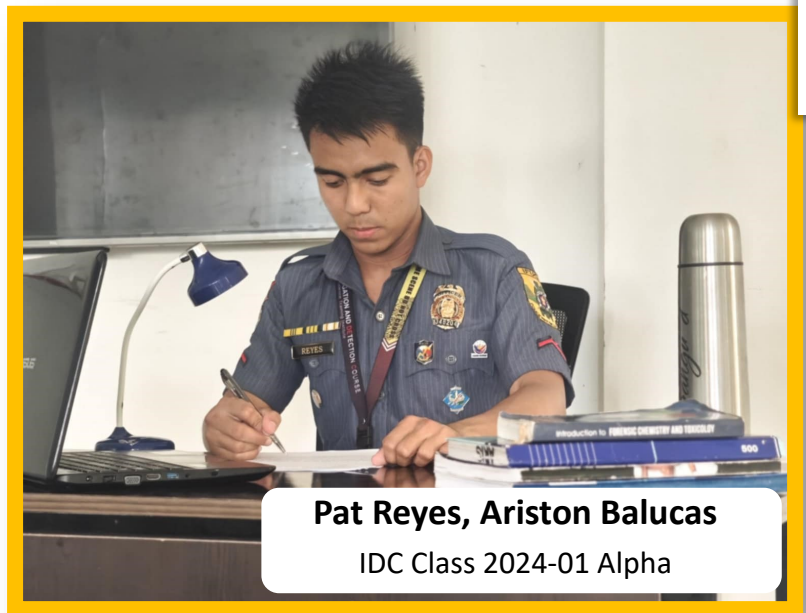
One of the key messages he conveyed to the students was the value of soft skills, such as communication, critical thinking, and ethical decision-making. These skills are crucial for success in any career but are especially important in criminal justice, where professionals often deal with complex and sensitive issues. He encouraged the students to seek out internships, volunteer opportunities, and other practical experiences that would allow them to develop these skills and gain a deeper understanding of the field.

In conclusion, participating as a panelist at the Career Congress was an enriching experience. It allowed NFSTI to contribute to the professional development of future criminal justice professionals and to share insights on the evolving landscape of the field. The event reinforced NFSTI's commitment to education and mentorship, and to look forward to future opportunities to engage with students and professionals in this capacity. The enthusiasm and curiosity displayed by the students were truly inspiring, and NFSTI is confident that they will go on to make significant contributions to the field of criminal justice and public safety and security.



Mr. Vergel O. Santiago, Chief Academics and Admin Unit, National Forensic Science Training Institute with fellow panelist JCINSP HANSEL M. KIWANG, Warden of Batangas City Jail Male Dormitory during the Lyceum of Batangas University's Career Congress.

BUILDING MYSELF INTO THE JOURNEY OF UPRIGHT INVESTIGATOR



Pat Reyes, Ariston Balucas

IDC Class 2024-01 Alpha

When I was a child, every time I saw a uniformed policeman, I felt that becoming a police officer is a noble profession because they are problem solvers, peacemakers, and sacrifice their own enjoyment just to safeguard the freedom, security, and enjoyment of the community. I dreamed of being that kind of person. At a young age, I knew that it was not easy to achieve that dream because there are many hindrances on the road I've chosen to travel. I came from a poor family, but I didn't let poverty stop me from achieving my goal in life. I was forced to stop my college studies because of financial problems. So, I worked at Jollibee Bangued to cover my needs for my studies. After a year of earning, I returned to school, and even though I was a working student, I still accepted the challenging position of Battalion Commander for my Criminology batch. But, as they say, "hard work pays off" because even though I was a Jollibee working student and Criminology Battalion Commander of my batch, God still allowed me to graduate as a Cum Laude.

In 2020, I was luckily chosen to be one of the members of the PSBRC CL 2020-02 "TINDIG-GASAT" recruits of PRO-CORDILLERA. Now, I am one step closer to my dream of becoming an investigator because we are almost finishing the Crime Detection and Investigation Course (CRIDEC) here at the National Forensic Science Training Institute (NFSTI). I do not regret taking up this course because I am very lucky to be part of this PS-IDC Class 2020-01 Alpha. We, as PNP members, together with our classmates from the Bureau of Correction, came from different parts of this country, but we are bound in this class to share our thoughts and experiences with each other and to be molded as future expert investigators of this country.

I am amazed by the characteristics of each of my classmates because each of them has a peculiar and charming personality. These help me in developing and molding myself more as a future investigator. I learned from the different aspects of this class, from the sustaining notes uploaded by the management in our Google Classroom, which fed my quest for learning; from the wonderful perspectives of our different instructors in their subject matter and challenging experiences in their field of assignment, which may serve as our guide in our journey as future investigators; from the complicated exams and practicals, which allowed us to learn from our mistakes; and from the different stories and impressive experiences of my enthusiastic classmates, especially those who have lasted in the service of investigation.

I am very thankful to the different staff of NFSTI who cared for us and understood our naughtiness during the duration of our course. I, together with my classmates, will not forget you and will always honor you from the bottom of our hearts, Sirs and Madams!

In the future, I will probably be assigned to the investigation section. I know that being an investigator is difficult, and many avoid this position. I learned that working as an investigator is stressful because of time requirements. It is also dangerous because the enemies are criminal-minded people. But armed with the wisdom and knowledge I have learned throughout the duration of this CRIDEC, I am not afraid to step into the role of an investigator. It is burned in my mind that the heartfelt gratitude of the victim towards the investigator who fulfilled their duty in the pursuit of truth and helping the victim attain the justice they are longing for is priceless and immeasurable.

