These and more are what we want

Today, as we launch an icon that will represent MCU, I take this opportunity to give you an update on developments in both academic affairs and in facilities.

Our colleges’ academic performance has improved tremendously in recent years with the new direction and spirit of our faculty members, deans and other academic personnel.

MCU board performances has its share of 100% passing rates. These were:
- Optometry on July 2012,
- Medicine for first takers on February 2013,
- Physical Therapy for first takers last February,
- Medical Technology for first takers last March,
- and again, Medical Technology for Batch 2013 first takers last September.

Other notable board performances were:
- Nursing at 71% last June,
- Doctor of Dental Medicine at 85% last May,
- Pharmacy at 80% last June,
- and Medicine at 90% for first takers last August.

Other colleges with batches with less desirable board performances are being addressed. To add, the accreditation levels of our programs have consistently gone up.

Together with the advancement of our academic programs are improvements we are undertaking or have done on facilities that complement the students’ education, research, health, sports and other well-being needs.

We are currently computerizing our school systems. With the Academic Information Management System, we will computerize registration, enrollment, and grading, among others. Also included are our accounting and human resources information systems.

Construction work to complete the PE Building will start within the next few weeks. Here we will have the canteen, a multi-purpose gym and a dormitory. Also in the next few weeks, the campus’s road network and other open areas will be paved.

Additional lecture rooms were completed at the 4th Floor of the Learning Resource Center and are now being used for classes.

All High School and Grade School classrooms are now air-conditioned.

The High School and Grade School Computer Laboratories, both with internet access and an upgraded computer curriculum, are now operational.

The campus-wide internet capability is almost complete with offices, libraries, laboratories, and other parts of the campus now internet-wired or wifi ready. With this, we are continuously working to improve connections and signals through the best providers.

The Internet Laboratory at the 3rd Floor of the LRC that is capable of 60 online computer units, has over 30 units already connected with the adjoining rooms now wifi ready.

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Not a few MCU students and other stakeholders have long asked, “Why don’t we have a mascot?” and “Why aren’t we called by a moniker?”

“I ain’t Minerva” is the usual answer that follows these questions.

The image of Minerva became related to MCU when the Administration led by founder and first president Arty Filemon D. Tanchoco developed a school logo. With the school motto “In Scientia Solidaritas” or solidarity in science, Minerva holding aloft a torch was composed.

Minerva was the Roman version of the Greek goddess Athena. She was considered the goddess of warriors, poetry, medicine, wisdom, commerce, weaving, crafts, and music.

However, MCU Minervas just did not seem suitable. So the current Administration and some creative individuals thought of other items and animals.

So many animals were considered. Shortlisted were the Philippine Civet or Musang or Alamid, the dog breed Husky, and the Philippine Flying Fox or Batayan. These animal mascot candidates fit well with some of the core values that the MCU stakeholder possesses.

But while these animals fit well with some of the MCU core values, one animal fit best. This is the Philippine Hawk Owl.

The Owl has very keen senses, very alert, a good and cunning hunter, has a unique voice or sound they use to defend their territory and mate, and is very resourceful.

A key factor in deciding that the owl is the MCU mascot is its association with Minerva. The Roman goddess Minerva has the owl as her sacred creature, as does her ancient Greek counterpart Athena. Athena was often depicted with an owl which was considered a symbol of wisdom in both Roman and Greek cultures.

A dictionary definition says a mascot is an item that is supposed to bring good luck while a moniker is a nickname. A mascot may represent your school, team, or company and embodies the image or values your organization wishes to promote.

On Thursday, September 19, 2013 the MCU Purple Owl was unveiled before students, faculty members, deans, department heads, employees, Administration officials and alumni at the Centennial Gym.

The MCU Purple Owls take flight!