UST researchers discover fourth Mycetia species in the country

A new species of flowering and fruiting plant discovered by a team of University of Santo Tomas (UST) researchers becomes the fourth Mycetia species recognized in the Philippines.

According to a paper co-authored by multi-awarded researcher in biology Dr. Grecebio Jonathan Alejandro, the new species resembles M. javanica, but also revealed differences in the “leaf blade indumentum, stipule features, inflorescences indumentum, calyx and corolla features, and fruit size and shape.”

Found thriving in the moist humus soils in open areas of Agusan del Norte, the species of Argostemmateae, an endemic Philippine plant, was coined Mycetia dagohoyana in honor of the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Rector Rev. Fr. Herminio V. Dagohoy, O.P. by Dr. Alejandro and his team.

The specific epithet “dagohoyana” was termed from the Rector’s surname Dagohoy, following the correct international botanical nomenclature.

The discovery of the M. dagohoyana is a result of a recent field survey in the Municipality of Remedios Romualdez in Agusan del Norte. Its distribution and habitat is located along the trail of Sak-a Falls heading to Mt. Hilong-hilong in elevations of 100 to 200 meters above sea level, growing on humus covered fertile and moist soils.

In 2015, Alejandro and his team named a rare flowering plant in Antique after Pope Francis (Hedyotis papafranciscoi) in time for his apostolic visit to the Philippines and his encounter with the youth in UST.

Alejandro, a 2015 recipient of the Gregorio Zara Achievement Award (Philippine Association for the Advancement of Science and Technology) and 2006 Outstanding Young Scientist in Biology (National Academy of Science and Technology), is the current director for the UST Office for Graduate Studies.
The University of Santo Tomas (UST) conferred the title Honorary Professor upon three of the world’s most reputable scientists in a special convocation held on February 27, 2017, at the UST Medicine Auditorium.

UST Reverend Fr. Herminio V. Dagohoy, O.P., the leading chemist, Japanese biophysics expert Prof. Takashi Okamoto, M.D., Ph.D., and Australian physicist Prof. John Holdsworth, Ph.D., were each awarded Honorary Professor titles.

Holdsworth, who is the head of Science Council of the University of Oxford and the Linnean Society of London, the American Society of Pharmacognosy, the American Association for Cancer Research, and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, was the first to speak. He highlighted how artificial intelligence and robotics have revolutionized teaching and learning.

UST confers honorary professor title to acclaimed scientists

UST researchers discover three rare plant species in the Philippines

UST confers honorary professor title to acclaimed scientists

UST conference honors esteemed Thomasian engineers at 110th anniversary
UST Simbahayan holds prayer march against human trafficking

In celebration of the International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking, the UST Simbahayan Community Development Office, in partnership with Talitha Kum Philippines held a Prayer-March on February 8, 2017 at the UST Arch of the Centuries and at the St. Anthony de Padua Parish in Bustillos, Manila.

The program was participated in by Thomasians, together with different institutions and sectors. It started with the opening prayer led by the Vice-Rector for Religious Affairs, Rev. Fr. Fieron I. dela Cruz, O.P., followed by the briefing by Sr. Cecilia Espinella, O.P., coordinator for Talitha Kum Philippines. A sharing on the issue of trafficking was given by organizations such as: ‘Pope Francis on Human Trafficking’ by Fr. Resty Ogsimer, CS (CBP-CICM), ‘Elements of Trafficking’ by Rev. Marie Sol Villanil (NCCP), ‘Training of Children’ by Ms. Fe Foronda (PCEC), ‘Migration and Trafficking’ by Sr. Nympha Que MMS (CMC-AMMSP), and ‘How can we do it?’ by Fiscal Rey Inocencio.

A Eucharistic Celebration held at the St. Anthony de Padua Parish in Bustillos, officiated by Fr. Clemente Moreira, FoCC ended the Prayer-March from UST grounds to Bustillos. TKP is a global network of consecrated persons of the International Network of Consecrated Life Against Trafficking. This event coincides with the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, the Patron of Victims of Human Trafficking.

Istituto Marangoni Asia Pacific Area Manager Mr. Roberto La Iacona, Istituto Marangoni Representative Office, Shanghai and Fashion Business Program Leader Ms. Sennait Ghebreab of the Istituto Marangoni School of Fashion, London visited the University of Santo Tomas on February 16, 2017, as an off-shoot of the benchmarking activities conducted by students and faculty members of the UST College of Fine Arts and Design (CFAD) at Istituto Marangoni School of Design and School of Fashion in Milan, Italy in July 2016.

The visitors, who were given a warm welcome by the UST Public Affairs Director Prof. Giovanna Fontanilla together with CFAD Dean Asst. Prof. Mary Christie Que, Assistant Dean Mr. Romero Castro, CFAD International Relations Coordinator Assoc. Prof. Anna Marie Bautista at the Main Building. This was followed by a courtesy call and meeting with UST Office for International Relations Director Prof. Lilian Sison, Ph.D. In this meeting, both institutions discussed their internationalization thrusts and finalized the Memorandum of Understanding between UST and Istituto Marangoni.

A UST campus tour was given the visitors. A meeting between the Istituto Marangoni and the UST representatives ensued to discuss a possible collaboration with Istituto Marangoni representatives at their headquarters in Milan. The benchmarking activity in 2016 resulted in strengthening the Student Mobility Program of CFAD, where Interior Design, Advertising Arts and Industrial Design students have signified their intent to enrol in a three-week short course program at Istituto Marangoni Milan Campus for the June to July 2017 summer intake.

This was followed by a lecture by Ms. Ghebreab on Fashion Marketing Focus On Communications - Promotion Through Social Media/ E-Commerce at the Beato Angelico AVR. The lecture was attended by Advertising Arts students and faculty members. As a token of gratitude, the College gave Ms. Ghebreab and Mr. La Iacona portraits done on the spot by Painting Program Chair Asst. Prof. Danilo Santiago.

After the lecture, an orientation was conducted by Mr. La Iacona to the CFAD students who will enrol in the summer courses. He discussed registration and enrolment requirements, campus life, how to go around Milan, possible places to stay and visit, and expectations from the programs.

The visit was capped with a closing meeting to formally jumpstart the Student Mobility Program of CFAD, where Interior Design, Advertising Arts and Industrial Design students have signified their intent to enrol in a three-week short course program at Istituto Marangoni Milan Campus for the June to July 2017 summer intake.
Nine Sports Science students take internship at California Baptist University

The UST-CRS interns were able to get an insight of how rehabilitation professionals in the United States execute their service delivery. The interns participated in various learning activities which included classroom presentations, demonstrations, and group discussions. Interns also had the chance to experience technological innovations and advanced techniques in rehabilitation in the clinical sites that they were exposed to in the states of New Jersey and New York. Extensive opportunities for professional development were also obtained through the rehabilitation professionals whom they have worked with during their individual and group evaluation and intervention sessions, along with clinical documentation.

The CRS plans to further strengthen its partnership with SHU through the continuation of its student and faculty mobility programs, adding the vision of expanding this endeavor to the other departments in the coming years. The interns expressed that the GIE program made them exchange their knowledge and skills on nutrition and language pathology starting 2018, and other members of CBU Faculty. The discussions centered mainly on future programs and projects such as, possible internship program of speech and language pathology starting 2018, the tentative itinerary for CBU students who are coming to UST in July 2017, and possible collaborations in research.

Being an expert in nutrition, she provided lectures and helped facilitate student classes and activities, including those at the Master’s and Doctorate levels. To further enhance her influence in the programs of both universities, exchange ideas on research and academic programs were also developed.

The program was led by Ms. Stephanie Claire L. Pagagarian, faculty member of the Department of Sports Science and Mr. Lames Lim, of the Department of Physical Therapy. As part of the faculty mobility program, Pagagarian and Lim provided lectures and helped facilitate student classes and activities, including those at the Master’s and Doctorate levels. To further enhance the program, exchange ideas on research and academic programs were also developed.

The PT interns were exposed to different areas of practice, including pediatric, musculoskeletal, acute neurologic, and community-based practice. They also had the opportunity to appreciate the culture of other countries as they met other students from Japan and Denmark with whom they exchanged experiences.

The SPS interns had hands-on experience on different exercise modalities and programs, observed physiological testing equipment and protocols, and witnessed the training of some Thai national teams as well as some Thailand University Games. Students were taken to the Sports Science Authority of Thailand where they learned the latest scientific data analysis of the different physiological testing equipment both for research use and program development. This center of authority houses majority of Thailand’s national teams, with the goal to provide quality training programs for performance enhancement of their athletes through its various units like Sports Physiology, Sports Nutrition, Sports Psychology, Sports Medicine and Strength and Conditioning.

The Sports Science program in Mahidol University is subdivided into four major fields: Sports Physiology, Sports Biomechanics, Sports Nutrition and Sports Medicine. The interns had the chance to work with both undergraduate and Master’s students, participate in research and academic endeavors, as well as engage in their desired sport like swimming, basketball and volleyball where they had the chance to train with university athletes.
First in PH: UST Grad Sch offers PhD in Architecture in partnership with University of Reading, UK

The University of Santo Tomas, through the Office for International Relations and Programs and the UST Graduate School, will open a program on PhD (by research) in Architecture startingAY 2018-2019. The program will be the first to be offered in the Philippines. This move is the offshoot of the efforts of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the British Council-Philippines on Transnational Education Programmes.

The CHED and the British Council identified ten higher education institutions in the country which will form part of Universities Philippines, aimed at prioritizing graduate education. It is a unique partnership between select higher education institutions in the Philippines, all working together to provide excellent programs in key educational areas and the universities working together to facilitate transitions and capacity building between institutions. All ten universities will open graduate programs either in the masters or doctoral level in partnership with select UK universities.

The Philippine and UK universities involved in the project are the following:

- Ateneo de Manila University and Queen Mary University of London, De La Salle University and Liverpool Hope University, University of the Philippines and the University of Reading, Saint Louis University and University of Derby, Silliman University and Newcastle University, Miriam College and Goldsmiths University of London, Bicol University and University of Liverpool, Central Luzon State University and Swansea University, University of San Carlos and Coventry University, and University of Santo Tomas and the University of Reading.

All ten Philippine universities will focus on different programs while UST will concentrate on the field of Architecture. Other programs to be opened by the other universities are PhD in Engineering by University of San Carlos and Coventry University, MSc in Data Science by De La Salle University and Liverpool Hope University, among others.

Spearheading this project is Office for International Relations Director Dr. Lilian J. Siason, and Graduate School Dean Dr. Marilu R. Madrunio.

UST Senior High School wins awards in UP Speca Speech Cup

UST Senior High School students took home several awards during the UP Speca Speech Cup held on February 18, 2017 at the UP Film Institute. Singatiga, in cooperation with Ting Tomasino, finished first runner up in the Sabayang Paghikas Category and received the Gardenia, ‘GBest’ Award. Meanwhile, UST Senior High School student Juan Miguel Ramal placed second runner up in the Oral Interpretation and was the recipient of the Krators ‘Defy the Day’ Award.

UST Graduate School Dean Marilu Rañosa-Madrunio, Ph.D., was chosen recently by the Embassy of the United States of America to represent the Philippines in the Summit on the Future of the TESOL Profession. The summit was held in Athens, Greece on February 9 and 10, 2017. TESOL is short for “Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages.”

Madrunio, who is also a faculty member of the Faculty of Arts and Letters, joined other country representatives from South Korea, Taiwan, and Japan. All four were selected by Ms. Whitney Mints, the Regional English Language Officer (RELO) of Asia and the Pacific. The RELO is based at the US Embassy in Manila.

At the Summit, topics discussed were critical issues pertaining to language education on at least four areas: Futureology, English in Multiculturalism, Reimagining English Competence and The Profession as a Change Agent. Round-table discussions were also held.

The field of Future Studies covered a discussion of broad, holistic perspectives essential for understanding the English language profession at present and in the future. The area on English in Multiculturalism focused on English being the ruling language that may eradicating linguistic diversity. However, the TESOL profession in its mission to teach English, embraces the opportunity to simultaneously support multilingualism. Reimagining English Competence challenges the argument that English competence should be viewed in reference to a native or ideal speaker norm and in terms of the grammar of language. The profession as a change agent highlights the view that each member of the TESOL profession must be empowered to foster positive change within a risk-tolerant culture. The summit was held under the auspices of the US Department of State.

CHRMS participates in University Research Fortnight 2017

The Center for Health Research and Movement Sciences, the research arm of the College of Rehabilitation Sciences (CRS-CHRMS), headed by its Research Supervisor, Prof. Consuelo G. Suarez, M.D., Ph.D., participated in various activities in celebration of the UST Research Fortnight 2017 organized by the Office of the Vice Rector for Research and Innovation.

Consistent with the University’s theme for this year’s celebration, “Thomasian Research Excellence and Engagements”, CHRMS held a Research Forum titled, “Moving toward Research Excellence” on February 15, 2017 at the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex (TARC) Auditorium. It highlighted faculty research presentations that aimed to provide new knowledge in the rehabilitation science professions, with focus on methods of research which may be used by other faculty and student researchers.

The faculty presenters for the forum included: Ms. Stephanie Ann Balid-Attwell who presented her research, “Crossing borders, transcending cultural differences: Development of the Philippine Implementation Model for Chronic Pain Management”; Ms. Pauline Grace Morato – Espino who discussed her research, “Teachers as therapeutic agents after Typhoon Haiyan: The effects of play therapy on trauma symptoms and child behavior”; and Ms. Jordan P. Nava who tackled her research, “Assessment tool development for a research-based community based rehabilitation program in Naga City.”

CHRMS-CHRMS likewise collaborated with the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery and the College of Nursing in a Tripartite Research Poster Presentation in Health held at the Medicine Building lobby from February 21 to 25, 2017, showcasing various research studies of faculty members and students from these academic units. CRS-CHRMS also participated in the University’s research poster presentations mounted at the Main Building from February 20 to 24, 2017.
Miss Universe Germany’s ‘castle’ recipient turns-over headdress to UST Museum

Miss Universe Germany’s headpiece found its new home at the University of Santo Tomas (UST) as it was formally turned-over to the UST Museum on February 13, 2017, two weeks after the conclusion of the Philippine hosted Miss Universe 2016 pageant.

The fairy-tale themed headpiece which was part of Miss Universe Germany Johanna Acs’ national costume during the pageant was donated to the UST Museum, the oldest existing school-based museum in the Philippines by Ms. Maria Consolacion “Sol” Albar, an interior designer, who received it from Ms. Acs herself one day after the pageant.

Albar, who graduated from the UST College of Fine Arts and Design in 1987, facilitated the donation of the 2-kilogram castle headpiece of Miss Germany. It was received by UST Museum Director Rev. Fr. Isidro Abaño, O.P., in a turn-over ceremony that was attended by Goethe Institut Philippinen Director and Head of Cultural Programs, Dr. Ulrich Nowak, UST officials, and students of Fine Arts.

Albar said that it was Acs’ decision to donate the castle headpiece to a school.

“She wants to keep the history of the headdress and to show her appreciation of the Filipino people. Also, it will allow the future generations to see it,” she said.

The miniature castle headpiece of Miss Germany which was based on the literary fairytale collection of two German authors, brothers Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, is a headpiece made of Paper Mache with LED lights that frame the top of the castle.

Also featured at the exhibit is the personal doll collection of UST Educational Technology Center Director Asst. Prof. Anna Cherylene M. Ramos, consisting of 28 dolls dressed up as the 2016 Miss Universe candidates, including Miss Universe 2015 Pia Wurtzbach in her famous blue gown.

A friendly encounter

Albar considers the opportunity of receiving Miss Germany’s headpiece as part of God’s plan and graces as she did not expect to be chosen as the recipient of the castle headdress by Mr. Frederick Lobaton, Johanna Acs’ personal advisor.

“It was Mr. Frederick who approached me at the socialization for those who will watch the Miss Universe pageant. I had no idea that Mr. Lobaton was part of Miss Germany’s team. That’s why I said, it is God’s grace,” Albar said.

It was Lobaton who asked Albar to help Miss Germany find a school to donate her headress. Albar suggested that the headpiece be donated to UST, and Lobaton and Miss Germany agreed.

“It belongs to UST,” Albar said.

The headpiece designed by Los Angeles-based Mexican-American designer Mr. Christian Pelayo, will be on exhibit at the UST Museum until February 24.

The headpiece, which weighs 2 kgs, is composed of paper mache and LED lights that frame the top. It was turned over to the UST Museum by Miss Germany Johanna Acs through her personal advisor, Mr. Frederick Lobaton.

Ms. Albar, who is an interior designer, is part of Miss Universe Germany’s team. She was part of Miss Germany’s team.

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Mandaluyong recognizes CRS contribution to rehabilitation program

The College of Rehabilitation Sciences received recognition from the City of Mandaluyong, together with other partners of this local government unit that have contributed to their programs and projects. The Plaque of Appreciation stated that the City Government of Mandaluyong recognizes the “generous and constant support extended by the College and the University in the implementation of the various pioneer initiatives and development advocacies of the City Government.” It is said to “complement the inspirations of this administration for every Mandaleño and for the city’s sustainable progress.”

CRS sends physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology interns to the Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program of the City of Mandaluyong through the Rehabilitation and Empowerment of Adults and Children with Handicap (REACH) Foundation, Inc. The center primarily advocates early intervention to promote optimum functioning of the child and provides services geared towards promoting independence and improving the child’s quality of life.

USTPH title ‘Navel’ launched by National Bookstore

The University of Santo Tomas Publishing House (USTPH) launched on February 12 one of its recently published titles, “Navel n. the central point of a place” by Rica Bolipata-Santos at National Bookstore in Glorietta 1, Makati City.

The book is a memoir—and one that colorfully narrates intimate tidbits of Bolipata-Santos’ childhood, marriage and family life, and her blossoming as a writer. With unflinching honesty, she tells tales from home and the academe.

Present at the launch were USTPH Director John Jack G. Wigley, PhD., and USTPH Deputy Director Ma. Ailil B. Alvarez.

“Rica pushes readers to face real life head on. She writes of the seemingly mundane and turns it into her own brand of extraordinary,” said Wigley in his introductory speech before officially handing over the books’ first copies to the author.

“Armed with words and an elephant’s memory, Rica is unyielding; she can be both beauty and beast. She is damsel in distress one minute and heroine the next. She is mother, daughter, wife, sister, teacher, writer, woman, master of her craft. She is also strikingly tender and raw and powerfully insightful. No doubt her genuineness bleeds through paper until she and the page are one and the same—her writing effective and affective,” Wigley said.

“Swing” was featured as the book’s cover.

“Navel” is divided into four parts: “All Things Mother,” “Teodoro Essays,” “On Becoming Woman,” and “On Family.”

According to author Cyan Abad-Jugo, who is also a professor at the Ateneo de Manila University, through Navel, “Bolipata-Santos carves a path one might follow, into the whorls of the navel and out to the world beyond, if one were only as brave or as bold.”

“Here is a collection of essays that come to a point, to an eye, that can stare within at a self at the same time that it watches, unblinkingly, the world,” Abad-Jugo said in a blurb that appeared in the book.

Before ending the event with words of thanks, Bolipata-Santos held a book signing session, where fans had the opportunity to meet and greet the author.
H.E. Carlos C. Salinas, Philippine Ambassador to Spain receives token from Rev. Fr. Herminio V. Dagohoy, UST Rector during his courtesy call to the UST Rector.