ANNOUNCEMENT:
Starting this Academic Year 2018-2019, The Academia Online will be released bi-monthly!

This change results in a more timely and responsive publication that presents the University's accomplishments in its functions of instruction, research, community development, and internationalization. It highlights the University's achievements inspired by its Mission-Vision.

The Academia Online is scheduled to be uploaded every mid and last Friday of the month.

UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Herminio V. Dagohoy, O.P., Ph.D., was elected Vice President of the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU), following the 26th General Assembly of IFCU held from July 23 to 27, 2018 at St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth, Ireland.

Formerly the Director for Asia-Pacific, the UST Rector will serve as one of the three Vice Presidents until 2021.

Established in 1965, the Federation is made up of more than 226 Catholic universities and higher education institutions. IFCU is currently based in France and has ten international research groups working on issues and themes shared among member institutions, namely, Catholic education, diversity and integration in Eastern and Western psychology, the role of the university in safeguarding the common home, family crises, democracy, bioethics, war, theology, migrants and refugees, and international peace studies.

The Federation seeks to position Catholic universities as communal and social actors, and also provides training workshops for executive management and leadership, internationalization and interculturality, teaching and pedagogy, research and innovation, and mediation, among others. UST hosted the IFCU Board of Administration’s meeting from March 18 to 22, 2018.

In addition to having a key role in IFCU, Fr. Dagohoy is concurrently the Executive Secretary of the Association of Southeast and East Asian Catholic Colleges and Universities (ASEACCU).
Apostolic Nuncio urges Thomasians to seek truth at Misa de Apertura; AB Dean Vasco delivers Discurso


T he University of Santo Tomas formally opened the Academic Year 2018-2019 with the traditional Mass of the Holy Spirit known to the Thomasian community as Misa de Apertura on August 1, 2018 held at the UST Chapel (Santisimo Rosario Parish), Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines His Excellency Archbishop Gabriele Giordano Caccia, S.T.D., J.C.L., was the main presider and homilist. The Dominican Fathers led by the UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Heminio V. Dagohoy, O.P. The UST Vice Chancellor and Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines Very Rev. Fr. Napoleon B. Sipajay, Jr., O.P., was also a concelebrant.

In his homily, Archbishop Caccia urged the Thomasian community to passionately seek the truth, because “if we are not attached to truth, other lords will govern our lives,” he said.

The Apostolic Nuncio emphasized, “in the logic of the spirit, wherever you share, you become richer.” Adding, “Think of [having] a candle. When [another person tries to obtain light] from your candle, the light [does not diminish] just because there is another candle... The one who gave the light is still rich, and the one who received light is also rich.... Light doesn’t diminish, but the result is a multiplication, enrichment, for everybody, and the world is brighter. This is the logic of the spirit.”

Archbishop Caccia also urged faculty members to invoke the Holy Spirit as they start the academic year and for each of them to pray, “Make of me a new person in searching for truth, for light, for peace in God.”

Following the Mass was another University tradition, the Discurso de Apertura, an academic lecture which is delivered before faculty members and students of the University, UST Faculty of Arts and Letters Dean Prof. Michael Anthony C. Vasco, Ph.D., delivered the 2018 lecture: “Liberal Arts in the University: Human Sciences as Erlös and Weltanschauung.”

Focusing on the liberal arts as part of the core of university learning, Dean Vasco detailed the roots of the liberal arts saying that, “The relationship between liberal arts and the university can be traced back almost 1,000 years ago for both are in search for the truth.”

Citing Pope John Paul II’s Ex Corde Ecclesiae, or the Apostolic Constitution on Catholic Universities, Dean Vasco said, “A Catholic university’s privileged task is to unite existentially, by intellectual effort, two orders of reality that too frequently tend to be placed in opposition as though they were antithetical: the search for truth and of already knowing the fount of truth.”

Emphasizing special place of the Liberal Arts in the university as the foundation of all the arts and sciences, Vasco said, “It is in liberal arts that integration and synthesis of knowledge takes place. The interdisciplinarity, germination, and synthesis of thought reaches its summit in liberal arts.”

In his speech, Dean Vasco acknowledged the great divide between the sciences and the arts, but reiterated the complementary roles of the two and their common origins, saying that, “the influences of the human sciences [on the liberal arts] can still be seen in the vestiges of scholasticism, in the inductive method of Francis Bacon and René Descartes.”

After discussing the socio-political economic challenges to liberal arts, Dean Vasco admitted that, “Providing access to liberal arts education is a daunting task, especially in a developing country whose priority is in the sciences and technology... Social inequality is one main culprit on why less and less students in other higher education institutions would pursue liberal arts courses.”

Despite this concern, Dean Vasco was optimistic of the future of liberal arts graduates in the Philippines, saying that, “The growing economy of the Philippines needs a bigger workforce to sustain its growth... New services will require additional labor force, while industries that are established will require additional (skilled professionals). I am sure it would also welcome liberal arts graduates who will man their human resource department, communication and legal departments, creativity and innovation departments, public relations department, research development and intellectual property departments.”

Dean Vasco added that “Applicants for liberal arts courses continue to grow in the past years. In fact, prior to the influx of the K-12 transition, enrollment in the liberal arts courses at UST registered an all-time high of 4,867 students across 12 academic degree programs.”

Due to the increasingly complex problems faced by the world today, Vasco emphasized multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches to solutions, saying that, “...Liberal Arts people would be needed the most, since they are trained to reframe, if not navigate well, the various domains of knowledge and distinguish them using clear-cut contemporary taxonomies of knowledge.”

Highlighting the ability of liberal arts students to develop reasoning, critical thinking, and imagination, the Arts and Letters dean cited Yale-National University of Singapore College of Liberal Arts President Tan Tai Yong, quoting that “Liberal arts education teaches you to question, encourages you to debate, think more broadly then come to your own conclusions—and how to apply those conclusions to the questions asked [because] a person educated in liberal arts tradition will have the ability to understand complexity and issues in different perspectives.”

Citing University of California Berkeley Chancellor Carol Christ, Dean Vasco said “Flexibility, creativity, critical thinking, strong communication skills, especially writing, are at the core of liberal arts education... and the challenges that graduates will face are more global than ever, [and so] the skills of liberal arts graduates are in increasing demand around the world [because] employers [in developed countries] are complaining about the inflexibility of a workforce educated without a focus on creativity or problem solving.”

Due to this trend, Dean Vasco said that universities in Asia are “adapting liberal arts education as an economic necessity.”

As Dean of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters (AB), the professor shared the response of AB to the recent trends. “Strong faculty development is evident by the increasing number of Ph.D. holders in the faculty roster. In the last three years, more than 15 faculty members completed their doctoral degrees. [They] have also engaged in paper and research presentations, and international conferences here and abroad. AB has actively pursued internationalization activities since 2006... hosted six international conferences in the recent years, placing AB in the academic map of various academic and professional organizations,” he said.

In the area of research, Dean Vasco shared the efforts of the Faculty of Arts and Letters such as expanding its research base by increasing the number of faculty members who are affiliated with the research centers of the university.

The Faculty also produces three peer-reviewed academic journals: UNITAS, a semi-annual peer-reviewed international online journal of advanced research in literature, culture, and society; Kritike, an online journal of philosophy which is indexed by Scopus and Thomson-Reuters; and the Asian Journal of English Language Studies (AJELS) which will soon go online this year.

After acknowledging and thanking the herculean team effort of the Thomasian community in upholding excellence and continually improving beyond its limits, the dean ended his speech with a wish for a hopeful new academic year.
The University of Santo Tomas formally welcomed almost 13,000 tertiary-level and post-graduate freshmen on August 6, 2018 through the tradition known as the “Thomasian Welcome Walk and Welcome Rites” led by UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Jesús M. Miranda, Jr., O.P. Corning from their respective buildings, the freshmen of AY 2018-2019, guided by their corresponding student leaders, entered through the historic Arch of the Centuries, facing the iconic Man Building and catching a glimpse of the bronze statue of UST founder Archbishop Miguel de Benavides, O.P. The Arch was the gateway of the University while it was still in the Intramuros campus.

The “walking-through-the-Arch” serves as a Rite of Passage for the freshmen marking the beginning of their academic life as full-fledged Thomasians. As they entered the Arch, the students were also accompanied by their respective deans, regents, and other academic officials who joined them at the UST Quadrencentennial Pavilion for the Eucharistic Celebration and Welcome Rites that followed the Welcome Walk.

The students were divided into the morning and afternoon sessions with the Welcome Walk for the morning group scheduled at 9:00 a.m., while the Walk for the afternoon group started at 2:00 p.m.

The Eucharistic Celebrations which were con-celebrated with the Dominican Fathers were also conducted in two batches. The Holy Mass for the morning session commenced at 10:30 a.m. presided by UST Vice Rector Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P. For the afternoon batch, UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Herminio V. Dagohoy, O.P., was the main presider in the Eucharistic Celebration that began at 3:30 p.m.

Students from the UST College of Fine Arts and Design walked through the Arch of the Centuries as part of their formal welcome as full-fledged Thomasians.

Love offerings during the Offertory were allocated for the partner communities of the Tulong Tomasino program of the UST SIMBAHAN Community Development Office.

For the high school freshmen Rite of Passage held on August 2, almost 4,000 students participated. Their welcome rites included a general orientation program titled #LAB2018 and a Eucharistic Celebration led by UST Vice Rector for Religious Affairs Rev. Fr. Pablo T. Tiong, O.P., con-celebrated with UST Junior High School Regent Rev. Fr. Rodol Canasancio, O.P., UST Senior High School Regent Rev. Fr. Enrico de Sagon, O.P., and UST SHS Assistant Regent Rev. Fr. George Pe Mung, O.P.

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Bernardo is elected president of Linguistic Society of the Philippines

Bernardo’s term as president started in June 2018 and will end in May 2021. His presidency coincides with the celebration of the 50th foundation anniversary of LSP and one of the activities of the organization is organizing an international conference that will bring together local and foreign linguists who have made significant impact in the area and hyphenated fields of linguistics. Prior to his stint as president, he served as LSP Vice President in 2017 and Director for Conferences in 2016.

Three other UST faculty members were elected as officers: Graduate School Dean Prof. Manuil R. Madrino, Ph.D., member of the Board of Advisors; Assoc. Prof. Rachelle B. Lintao, Ph.D. of Arts and Letters and Graduate School Treasurer; and Asst. Prof. Anna Maria Gloria S. Ward of Arts and Letters, member of the Board of Advisors.

The LSP aims to strive for the advancement of the sciences, a study of language particularly on language in the Philippine context and the dissemination of empirical and theoretical studies through different platforms. It also publishes the Philippine Journal of Linguistics (FUL), an international peer-reviewed journal of research in linguistics.

The organization, founded in 1969, was the brainchild of Dr. Bonifacio Sibayan of the Philippine Normal University and Dr. Ernesto Constantino of the University of the Philippines, two prominent Filipino linguists. At the onset of the organization, LSPs leaders included linguistics luminaries such as Br. Andrew Gonzale, FSC, (De La Salle University), Teodoro Llamzon (Ateneo de Manila), Bonifacio Sibayan (PNC), Ediberto Dagit (PNC), and Fe Olanes (PNC). Now, LSP is equally prominent language educators and practitioners from prestigious universities in the Philippines.

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Pharmacist Licensure Examinations
August 2018

U.S.T. Passing Rate: 91.56%
National Passing Rate: 69.20%

3rd - 91.35%
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4th - 91.30%
Biehn Beryl C. Que

6th - 91.20%
Maureen Theresa S. Alexander

7th - 91.07%
Krishna Daisha S. Corpuz

UST Passing Rate: 91.56%
National Passing Rate: 69.20%

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