University of Santo Tomas (UST) Electronics Engineering student Jay Patrick M. Nieles received top honors for his research on helping Locked-in Syndrome patients communicate through a brain-computer typing interface. Nieles was recognized during the 30th Science Awards of the Bank of the Philippine Islands Foundation, Inc. and the Department of Science and Technology (BPI-DOST) held on August 2, 2019 at the Alphaland City Club in Makati City.

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Hasaan 7 brings translation experts, advocates to UST national conference

The UST Department of Filipino and the UST Sentro sa Salin at Araling Salin (Center for Translation and Translation Studies) together with the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) (Commission on the Filipino Language) held a three-day national conference on translation at the University of Santo Tomas. Titled “Hasaan 7,” the conference was held from August 5 to 7, 2019 at the UST-AMV Multipurpose Hall.

UST Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl R. Peralta, DrPH, delivered the welcome remarks and KWF Chair and National Artist Hon. Virgilio S. Almario was the keynote speaker. He emphasized the need for clearer-cut agenda that will set the direction and orientation of translation in the Philippines. This agenda may start with the use of Filipino as target language of translation while strengthening the other indigenous languages in the country.

With the conference theme “Ang Papel ng Pagsasalin sa Interaktibong Ugnayan ng Wikang Pambansa at mga Katutubong Wika,” (The Role of Translation in the Interactive Relationship of the National and Indigenous Languages), the event was held in celebration of the Buwan ng Wika 2019 (National Language Month), which itself had the theme of “Wikang Katutubo: Tungo sa Bansaing Pilipino” (Indigenous Languages: Toward a Filipino Nation).

The following experts served as plenary speakers of the conference: National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) Philippines Academician and UST Professor Emeritus Fortunato B. Sevilla III, Ph.D., on the topic, “Ang Halaga ng Katutubong Wika sa Pagsasalin sa Agham” (The Value of the Indigenous Language in the Translation in Science); University of the Philippines Professor Galileo S. Zafra, Ph.D., on the topic, “The Conceptualization of the Indigenous Consciousness in the Translation in Psychology); UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery Professor Maria Minerva Calimag, M.D., Ph.D., on the topic, “The Role of Translation in the Development of National Language); UST Associate Professor Arthur P. Casanova, Ph.D., on the topic, “The Contribution of Translation in the Development of National Language”;

UST Associate Professor Arthur P. Casanova, Ph.D., on the topic, “Mga Praktika ng Pagsasalin sa Duba mula sa Cebuano/Bisaya tungong Filipino” (The Practices of Translation of Play From Cebuano/Bisaya to Filipino); UP Diliman Assistant Professor Jayson D. Petras on the topic, “Ang Pagpakatulog ng Katutubong Kamalayan sa Pagsasalin sa Siyensiya” (The Conceptualization of the Indigenous Consciousness in the Translation in Psychology); UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery Professor Maria Minerva Calimag, M.D., Ph.D., on the topic, “Ang Papel ng Wikang Katutubong sa Pagsasalin para sa Literasya Pangkalahatang” (The Role of the Indigenous Language in the Translation for Health Literacy); UST Department of Filipino Chair Asst. Prof. Akin Ringgo C. Reyes on the topic, “Ang Pagsasalin Bilang Estratehaya sa Pagtuturo” (Translation as a Teaching Strategy); and National Bureau of Investigation Lawyer Atty. Rolando A. Biniales, Ph.D., on the topic, “Mga Legal sa Pasko: Ang Pagsasalin Bilang Propesyon” (Legal Perspectives: Translation as a Profession).

BRAIN-COMPUTER FROM PAGE 1

Feted with the sole Project of the Year Award and one of the two Best in Innovation Awards, Nieles received trophies and cash prizes of Php 25,000 and Php 20,000, respectively.

With the theme, “Moving the Nation towards Sustainable Development through Science and Innovation,” the BPI-DOST Science awards recognized 30 students for generating scientific research projects and innovations in applied science, health and allied science, physical science, and other related fields. Nieles’ study aimed to enable communication with locked-in syndrome patients to increase their quality of life. Locked-in Syndrome, a form of severe paralysis results in total loss of motor ability including speech and is usually obtained due to traumatic brain injury, neural damage, or most commonly, stroke.

As Nieles’ project brief video explains, stroke is the second leading cause of death in the Philippines, with 15 million adults affected worldwide, and 5 million permanently disabled. At present, there is no specific medical treatment for it and those affected with the syndrome are limited to blinking and vertical eye movement for basic communication. His research proposed a solution: patients could think of a command and express words displayed on screen, or what Nieles calls in the same video, “typing by thinking.”

The project entry, titled “Electroencephalogram (EEG)-based Brain Computer Typing Interface Using Imagined Characters for Locked-In Syndrome Patients,” involved a brain-computer typing interface using visual imagination of basic shapes and letters. Brain signals were recorded and machine learning was used to classify the aforementioned signals.

Original titled “Characterization of EEG Signal Patterns During Visual Imageries of Basic Structures for the Development of Brain-Computer Typing Interface for Locked-in Syndrome Patients,” the study was originally published as part of the conference proceedings of the 2018 Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 10th International Conference on Humanoid, Nanotechnology, Information Technology, Communication and Control, Environment and Management (HNICEM), UST Faculty of Engineering mentor and neuroengineer Seigfred Prado served as Nieles’ research advisor.

A top student and a track and field athlete of the University of Santo Tomas in the UAAP, Nieles graduated Magna cum Laude in June 2019.

Two Thomasians who were also part of the 30 BPI-DOST Science Awardes for 2019 were: Chemical Engineering student Hazel Anne Pullan, who developed biodegradable plant grow bags and Biology student Marielle Go, who developed a diagnostic method for Taipia Lake Virus.
The Faculty of Arts and Letters successfully hurdled its PACUCOA Level 4 First Reaccreditation visit for four programs:

**Philosophy, AB in Literature, Economics and Legal Management Programs.** At the time of the visit, the Faculty of Arts and Letters was headed by Dean Prof. Michael Anthony C. Vasco, Ph.D., who led the administrators, department chairs, program coordinators and faculty members in welcoming the PACUCOA accreditors: Dr. Ma. Cristina F. Bate (Chair) for Philosophy and Objectives, Organization and Administration and Criterion V, Planning Processes Supporting Quality Assurance Mechanism for the Program (All Programs), Dr. Doris Bayugo for Faculty, Instruction, Laboratories, Criterion I, Excellent Teaching and Learning Outcomes of the Program and Criterion VI, Career Planning and Development for Students of the Program (AB in Legal Management), Dr. Paz Lucido for Faculty, Instruction Laboratories, Criterion I, Excellent Teaching and Learning Outcomes of the Program and Criterion VI, Career Planning and Development for Students of the Program (AB in Philosophy, AB in Literature, and AB in Economics), Dr. Maria Mercdez M. Haz for Library and Criterion IV, Linkages and Consortia of the Institution and of the Program (All Programs), Dr. Leonardo Medina for Physical Plant and Facilities (All Programs), Dr. Rosita Santos for Research and Criterion II Research Productivity of the Program (All Programs), and Dr. Evangelina N. Cabe for Student Services, Social Orientation and Community Involvement, and Criterion III Community Service of the Institution and of the Program (All Programs).

The AB in Philosophy, AB in Economics, AB in Legal Management, AB in Literature Programs of the Faculty of Arts and Letters were the first to have been granted Level IV reaccredited status in the National Capital Region and the Philippines back in 2014 and is effective until 2019. The said Level 4 first Reaccreditation visit will eventually result in the extension of the Level 4 Reaccreditation of the said Programs from 2019 to 2024.

**HASAAN FROM PAGE 2**

The three-day conference culminated with a panel discussion on the current state of translation in the country led by Center for Translation and Translation Studies Coordinator Asst. Prof. Wennelain E. Fajlan, Ph.D., and participated in by Filipinas Institute of Translation Chair and UP Diliman Associate Professor Romulo P. Baquiran Jr., Ph.D., KWF Translation Division Chief John Enrico C. Torralba, Cultural Center of the Philippines Senior Culture and Arts Officer Beverly W. Siy, and LEXCODE Country Director for the Philippines Christine T. Ignacio.

During the conference, Filipino Department Chair Asst. Prof. Reyes led the launch of the journal named Hasaan. Hasaan 7 convened translators, Filipino teachers, language researchers, media practitioners, and concerned government employees to discuss the latest issues, problems and trends in translation practice, assessment of translation quality, and professionalization of translators in the Philippines. An election of interim officers who will work on the cause of professionalization of translation in the country was also held on the last day.

**HRM students win major prizes in Philippine Culinary Cup 2019**

In coming third year students under the Hotel and Restaurant Management program of the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management won gold and bronze medals in three categories in the 2019 Philippine Culinary Cup held from August 7 to 10, 2019 at the SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia.

The UST HRM team, composed of students and faculty members led by CTHM Dean Atty. Gezzez Giezi G. Granado, DCL, (third from left) and Assistant Dean Evangeline Timbang (second from left) with the student winners.
Pharmacy explores possibilities of collaboration with two Australian universities

Faculty of Pharmacy Dean Prof. Aleth Therese L. Dacanay, Ph.D., together with academic officials, namely, Faculty Secretary Asst. Prof. Renz Kenneth G. Cadiang, International Relations Officer Assoc. Prof. Agnes L. Castillo, Ph.D., Medical Technology Department Chair Assoc. Prof. Edilberto Manahan, Ph.D., and Advance Pharmacy Practice Experience Coordinator Assoc. Prof. Nelson Tubon, Ph.D., visited the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutics of the Monash University in Australia on July 29, 2019.

The UST Pharmacy officials were welcomed by the administrative and academic officials of Monash University, namely, Project Pharmacist Director Prof. John Jackson, Centre for Medicine Use and Safety Director Prof. Simon Bell, Prof. Tina Brock, Ph.D., Acting Dean Peter Scammells, Centre for Medicine Use and Safety Director Prof. Carl Kirkpatrick, and Centre for Medicine Use and Safety Chair Prof. Kirsten Galbraith, Ph.D.

Included in the discussion were matters such as the Pharmacy practice in Australia, research on medication use and safety, Pharmacy curriculum, faculty profile, experiential development and graduate education. There were also discussions on collaborative research and publications, co-supervision for research students, mobility programs, exchange students, and the use of Monash facilities for UST faculty members and students involved in research. After the round table discussion, the UST delegates were toured around the facilities and laboratories of the Monash Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutics.

At UNISA: Discussions and laboratory visits

The UST group led by Dean Dacanay was at the University of South Australia (UNISA) from July 24 to 27, 2019 to discuss possible collaborative research and publications, co-supervision for research students, mobility programs, exchange students, global internship for UNISA students in the Philippines for immersion to Pharmacy and Medical Technology practice, and the use of UNISA facilities for UST faculty members and students involved in research. After the round table discussion, the UST delegates were toured around the facilities and laboratories of the UNISA School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences, such as Pharmaceutics, Pharmacology, among others.

The group also visited the Royal Adelaide Hospital Pharmacy Department, and Medical Laboratory Department. They went on a UNISA Medical Sciences Lab tour with Prof. Brian Dale, Ph.D. The tour of the UNISA School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences Laboratory was facilitated by Department of Pharmacy Chair Prof. Matthew Sykes, Ph.D., while the tour of the State Herbarium of South Australia was made possible with the assistance of Mr. Martin O’Leary, botanist and curator. The tour of the Adelaide Botanical Garden was facilitated by Dr. Susan Semple.

As part of the activities during the visit to UNISA, faculty members from the UST Faculty of Pharmacy presented their papers at the joint UNISA-UST symposium held on July 27, 2019 at the School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences, UNISA West Campus. This was attended by UNISA faculty members and students in the Graduate School. Dean Dacanay presented ‘Pharmacy Practice Experience,’ Assoc. Prof. Agnes L. Castillo, Ph.D., discussed ‘Nano-engineered Delivery Systems for Antimicrobials,’ while Asst. Prof. Renz Kenneth Cadiang, presented an ‘Analysis of Medication Utilization among Filipino Elderly.’

Dean Dacanay speaks during UNISA-UST joint symposium.

Dean Dacanay (rightmost) and the team from the UST Faculty of Pharmacy at the UNISA School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences Laboratory.
AB Asian Studies students learn Bahasa Indonesia

The Embassy of Indonesia in Manila, AB Internationalization Office, and UST AB Asian Studies Program held a special Indonesian Culture Class for the second Term of AY 2018-2019. The Embassy opened a short course for students and faculty members, particularly those under the Asian Studies Program. This class was mainly on learning the Bahasa Indonesia, which is not just the national language of the Republic of Indonesia, but also the official language of ASEAN.

Bahasa Indonesia classes were held at the St. Raymund Building under the instruction of Indonesian Culture Attaché Ibu Prita Dyah Kesumaningtyas. It culminated at the Embassy of Indonesia in Manila. The class was held for three hours every Tuesday, and was meant to equip participants with as much skills to learn Bahasa Indonesia A1 level.

Aside from learning Bahasa, there was also a Batik Making class held for one day as a special activity in which the Embassy also served Indonesian cuisine for the participants.

Asian Studies students already earned six units of Mandarin in addition to the regular six units of Spanish at the Faculty of Arts and Letters. Those who participated in this internationalization activity added Bahasa Indonesia to their qualification, making a total of three international languages spoken aside from English. This activity helps students become more internationally competitive in the realm of the ASEAN integration, and the program looks forward to further ventures with the Embassy.

Alipao of SIMBAHAYAN presents paper on Community Integration at Asian Conference on Education in Japan

UST SIMBAHAYAN Community Development Office Assistant Director Asst. Prof. Froilan A. Alipao presented his paper titled ‘Journeying with Communities: Theoretical Reflections from the Community Integration as Complex and Integrative Method for Teaching, Research and Service.’ His paper about teaching and serving in a university setting was presented at The Asian Conference on Education and International Development 2019 (ACEID2019) held recently at The Toshi Center Hotel, Tokyo, Japan. With the theme ‘Independence and Interdependence,’ the conference was organized by the International Academic Forum (IAFOR) in association with the IAFOR Research Centre at Osaka University and IAFOR’s Global University Partners.

The conference was highlighted by the lectures delivered by speakers, namely, Professors Yozo Yokota and Haruko Satoh. Yokota delivered his lecture focused on Education and Displaced People. He is an internationally renowned jurist and teacher in international laws on economics and human rights, a UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Myanmar and a respected advocate of human rights. Satoh delivered a lecture titled ‘Between Aspiration and Reality: Cultural Conflict in a University Classroom.’ He is a Specially Appointed Professor at the Osaka School of International Public Policy (OSIPP) at Osaka University, Japan.

Alipao, who teaches at the Faculty of Arts and Letters under the Department of Sociology, discussed that the role of the faculty members is to respond to the challenge of being agents of social transformation within and outside the university. He said that to be able to respond to this call, faculty members must be committed and equipped with integrated knowledge, skills and values for teaching and learning, research and service with the communities.

With Alipao’s experience of almost 17 years of serving the University of Santo Tomas through teaching, research and service with the communities, he has proven that these were complex and yet integrative for the full processes of learning and serving. These processes enriched Alipao’s experiences and wisdom for the integrative formation of students in terms of knowledge generation and management and service with the communities. His paper generally described and reflected the processes and learning gained from the experiences of community integration as integrative method of teaching, research and service for community development with all the stakeholders, which include the author (Alipao) as faculty, researcher and university community development facilitator; the immediate and substantial university departments or offices where the author is directly connected; the students as learners, researchers and servers for community development; and the partner communities as substantial stakeholders.

Alipao joined 200 academics and practitioners in representing more than 40 different nations that came together and shared their research studies and practices.
Communication faculty researchers present papers at Asian Media Conference in Thailand

Four Communication faculty members from the Faculty of Arts and Letters who are also fellows from the UST Research Center for Culture, Arts and Humanities (RCCAH) recently presented papers at the 27th Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC) conference held at the Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. The UST group was composed of RCCAH Director Dr. Joyce L. Arriola, Ph.D., Asst. Prof. Maria Gwenneth Pusta, Ph.D., Communication and Media Studies Chair Asst. Prof. Jose Arsenio Salandanan and Asst. Prof. Beyan Hagos, Ph.D.

AMIC, an international non-government organization (NGO) committed to communication media development in the Asia Pacific region, is guided by its mission to nurture and promote communication media research, capacity building, knowledge management and dialogue among the academe, industry, government and civil society.

Aptly themed ‘Communication, Technology, and New Humanism,’ the conference drew a number of communication scholars and practitioners as they delivered papers covering a wide range of topics which included Arts and Culture; Rediscovering Forms and Platforms; Communication, Human Rights, and Democracy; Enablers and Disruptions; Mediated Learning: Outside the Classroom Box; Understanding Post-humanism: Artificial intelligence, Robotics and Dataism; Finding Humanism in Business and Marketing Communication; Social and Behaviour Change Communication for Development; and Communication in a Post-truth Era: Disinformation, Misinformation, and Fake News, among many others.

In her research titled ‘The New Humanities as Research Agenda: Exploring Loci for Communication and Allied Fields,’ RCCAH Director Arriola argued that new research areas may be explored in view of the obsolescence of old sites of inquiry due to the changes wrought by the technologies of the fourth industrial revolution. The universal call for New Humanism, spearheaded by the UNESCO, is meant to recuperate the human amidst the depersonalizing effects of new communication technologies. In the long run, the new communication culture will adjust to the challenges posed by technological shifts and will even be the most critical catalyst in ushering the fifth industrial revolution, which is purported to be centered on innovation and moral purpose.

In their collaborative work, ‘A Research Policy Study on Innovation, Communication and Technology in Designing a Communication Style Guide,’ Dr. Pusta and Asst. Prof. Salandanan opined that the practice of quality research in communication is instantiated through a model with elements like innovation, communication and technology. The research paper hoped to address and crystallize issues, debates and paradigm shifts in creating a standard presentation of communication researches in the Communication program.

Dr. Hagos’ paper ‘The Moro (Muslim Mindanao) Question and the Media Coverage: The Philippine Daily Inquirer’ focused on how the Islamic South’s issue transformed from armed confrontation against the Republic to a long process of negotiation. State-sponsored negotiation needs public support to arrive at some form of settlement, Hagos stated as he underscored the pivotal role of media as a tool for information dissemination which would bring about a better understanding of the issues.

During the three-day conference, the keynote and plenary speakers, led by Professor Emeriti Eddie Kuo and Tapio Varis, opined that the practice of quality research in communication is instantiated through a model with elements like innovation, communication and technology. The research paper hoped to address and crystallize issues, debates and paradigm shifts in creating a standard presentation of communication researches in the Communication program.

UST Department of Political Science faculty researcher Mr. Ronald Castillo presented his paper on ‘Localizing Zero Waste: Mapping the Institutionalization of Solid Waste Management in the City of San Fernando.’ at the first Local Development Academy held recently at the University of Umea located at the northern part of Sweden. Castillo, a research associate at the UST Research Center for the Social Sciences and Education (RCSSED), also attended the Policy Proposal Making and Participatory Video Making Workshops. The Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy (ICLD) held its first Local Development Academy at the University of Umea in its efforts to promote knowledge sharing and the advocacy for local development and democracy, the Swedish Centre awarded full funding to 45 participants around the globe.

The academy’s purpose is for the participants to share their own expertise and research studies while joining workshops where they can learn innovations on participatory engagement and local development issues. The academy also served as a venue promoting inter-municipal linkages.

At the RCSSED, Castillo is a member of a research team headed by Prof. Arlen Ancheta, Ph.D. The team is funded by the Global Alliance for Incineration Alternatives (GAA) researching on the Social and Economic Benefits of Zero Waste Practices. The team is composed of Prof. Belinda de Castro, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. Maria Rosario Garcia, Ph.D., and Assoc. Prof. Moises Norman Garcia, Ph.D. Castillo serves as political network analyst and local government liaison to the team. His paper on localizing zero waste is a subsequent finding from participating in the field work.
The University of Santo Tomas Museum mounted an exhibition on the life and achievements of St. Thomas Aquinas, the Patron Saint of the University for whom it is named. Located in the Main Gallery of the Museum, the exhibition runs from August 1, 2019 to September 11, 2019.

With the intention of introducing St. Thomas Aquinas to the freshmen of the University, it opened prior to the Freshman Orientation with the theme “Travels of St. Thomas.” This year’s exhibition includes new features such as a map of St. Thomas’ travels on the gallery floor, and angel wings and halos to remind visitors that St. Thomas is known as “The Angelic Doctor.”

Also in the exhibition are a brief chronology of the Saint’s life from his birth in the mid-1220s in Roccasecca, Italy to his proclamation as Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius V in 1567 and the numerous titles attributed to St. Thomas, among others.

Under the Aquinian Sun is a bust of St. Thomas Aquinas patterned after the marble image found at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome. Partially visible on the ground is a visualization map of the Angelic Doctor’s travels. [Photo courtesy of the UST Museum]