



THE ACADEMIA

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UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Herminio V. Dagohoy, O.P., (left) with His Holiness Pope Francis in Italy

UST Rector has audience with Pope Francis at IFCU Forum

University of Santo Tomas Rector Very Rev. Fr. Herminio V. Dagohoy, O.P., once again met with His Holiness Pope Francis at the annual New Frontiers for University Leaders forum of the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU). With the theme "The Future of Health and the University Ecosystem," it was held at the Augustinianum Congress Centre in Rome, Italy from November 4 to 5, 2019.

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UST RECTOR HAS AUDIENCE WITH POPE FRANCIS FROM PAGE 1

The Father Rector, who is currently the IFCU Vice President, previously welcomed His Holiness Pope Francis at the Arch of the Centuries during his visit to the University of Santo Tomas on January 18, 2015.

According to the IFCU website, the two-day forum aimed to update university leaders from around the globe with the latest challenges and transformations arising from the new frontiers of science in healthcare, biotech, artificial intelligence, automation, and the impact of societal transformations and climate change in the strategies and policies in the self-definition of universities as sites of knowledge production.

The Holy Father received the forum participants, among them the Father Rector and UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery Dean Ma. Lourdes D. Maglinao, M.D.

The Pope delivered an address during the first day of the forum. From a bulletin published by the Holy See Press Office, Pope Francis discussed the role of universities in addressing the need to educate students in an age of increasing technological advancement and shifting societal demands. Universities have the responsibility of preparing new generations to become competent professionals, proponents of the common good, and responsible leaders, so institutional leaders and educators must consider how to contribute not only to the integral health and development of a person, but also to the community.

A Catholic university, emphasized the Holy Father, must become “a place

where solutions for civil and cultural progress for individual persons and for humanity, marked by solidarity, are pursued with perseverance and professionalism.”

“The formation of leaders achieves its goal when it imbues the academic years with the aim of developing not only the mind but also the ‘heart,’ the conscience, together with students’ practical abilities. Scientific and theoretical knowledge must be blended with the sensitivity of the scholar and researcher, so that the fruits of study are not acquired in a self-referential way, affirming only one’s professional position, but have a relational and social purpose,” said Pope Francis.

The Pope further explained, “Just as every scientist and every person of culture has an obligation to greater service, because they possess greater knowledge, so too [does] the university community, especially if it has a Christian inspiration, and the ecosystem of academic institutions must respond together to the same duty. In this perspective, the path that the Church and Catholic academics must follow is succinctly expressed by the patron of [IFCU], the newly-canonized Cardinal John Henry Newman: The Church ‘fears no knowledge, but she purifies all; she represses no element of our nature, but cultivates the whole.’”

IFCU is based in France and is composed of more than 226 Catholic universities and higher education institutions, including the University of Santo Tomas.

Esguerra of RCCAH, Arts and Letters wins Titus Brandsma Award for Emergent Leadership in Journalism



UST Research Center for Culture, Arts, and Humanities (RCCA) Fellow Asst. Prof. Christian V. Esguerra has, once again, been recognized as one of the top journalists in the country.

Esguerra, a faculty member at the Communication and Media Studies Department of the Faculty of Arts and Letters, was conferred the 2019 Titus Brandsma Award for Emergent Leadership in Journalism on October 28, 2019 during ceremonies held at the SM North EDSA Skydome in Quezon City.

Earlier this year, Esguerra also received the 2019 award of distinction from the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility.

Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines’ (CBCP) online news outlet CBCP News reported Esguerra was “recognized for his abiding efforts to the pursuit of excellence in media reporting with his sharp analysis to interpret the meaning of events and explain the issues in the news that confront Filipinos in these difficult times,” as well as, “evangelizing his young students by his living witness in the field he teaches that is political journalism, media ethics, and social communication.”

“I am deeply honored and at the same time humbled by the recognition. But more importantly, may the memory of Titus Brandsma inspire all of us to stay true to journalism’s calling, at a time when press freedom — and truth — are under heavy attack,” Esguerra said in an interview with alternative media outfit Kodao Productions. Esguerra was with the Varsitarian while he was a student at the University of Santo Tomas.

The ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC) correspondent Christian Esguerra received the award alongside Veteran journalist and activist Luis Teodoro, TV5 correspondent and journalist Ed Lingao, Philippine Information Agency’s (PIA) Belina San Buenaventura-Capul, the late American Jesuit Catholic priest Fr. James Reuter, S.J., and the late ABS-CBN Foundation co-founder and environmentalist Gina Lopez.

The Titus Brandsma Awards are given to outstanding individuals, predominantly journalists, for their exemplary leadership in the field of journalism and education. This award is inspired by the Blessed Titus Brandsma, a Dutch Carmelite friar who was imprisoned at the Dachau concentration camp for bravely opposing the Nazi ideology.

UST GS to offer Certificate courses in Export and International Trade, Linguistic Research in 2020



(From left:) WTCMM Senior Manager Ms. Sheryl Santos, WTCMM Vice President Ms. Lila P. Cailles, WTCMM President Ms. Pamela D. Pascual, RX President and Chief Executive Officer Ms. Xialemeer Valdeavilla, RX Chairman Dr. Robert Sy, UST Graduate School Dean Prof. Michael Anthony C. Vasco, Ph.D., and UST CCPED Director Assoc. Prof. Jocelyn F. Agcaoili.

The UST Graduate School (GS) through the Center for Continuing Professional Education and Development (CCPED) will offer new certificate programs beginning 2020, according to Graduate School Dean Prof. Michael Anthony C. Vasco, Ph.D. These agreements were between the UST GS CCPED and with the World Trade Center Metro Manila and the Linguistic Society of the Philippines.

Post Baccalaureate certificate course in Export and International Trade

In an agreement signed with the World Trade Center Metro Manila (WTCMM) through RX International Events and Marketing Consultancy (RX), the University of Santo Tomas will offer

Certificate for International Trade (CIT) as a Post Baccalaureate Certificate in Export and International Trade (PBCEIT). It will be administered by the UST Graduate School Center for Continuing Professional Education and Development (CCPED) beginning January 2020.

In a ceremony held at the UST Graduate School, the partnership between WTCMM and UST was signed to seal the contract between the two parties. Present were: WTCMM Sr. Manager Ms. Sheryl Santos, WTCMM VP Ms. Lila P. Cailles, WTCMM President Ms. Pamela D. Pascual, RX President and CEO Ms. Xialemeer Valdeavilla, RX Chairman Dr. Robert Sy, UST Graduate School Dean Prof. Michael Anthony C. Vasco, Ph.D., and UST CCPED Director Assoc. Prof. Jocelyn F. Agcaoili.

The WTCMM's CIT Post Baccalaureate Certificate in Export and International Trade (PBCEIT) is an educational program that provides cost-efficient, quick, yet effective and pragmatic approach to professionalize one's business skills and knowledge and allows one to manage and do business on a global perspective. It is the core operational qualification for international trade professionals that gives a complete fundamental knowledge on operational and marketing requirements in order to exchange goods and services between countries.

UST GS TO OFFER CERTIFICATE COURSES TO PAGE 5

UST GS TO OFFER CERTIFICATE COURSES FROM PAGE 4

The WTCMM CIT program to be offered in the Philippines is modelled after similar programs offered by WTC Denver, WTC Mumbai and WTC Winnipeg. The CIT Professional trade designation is earned by completing courses and meeting standards and requirements set by the WTCMM and granted to one who has acquired a comprehensive set of skills enabling one to assess and evaluate the opportunities available, as well as risks associated with international trade.

Aside from the Certificate, participants who complete the eight-day program and successfully defend their business plan may use the initials CITP after their names. Furthermore, if they enroll in the UST Graduate School, the certificate may be credited as a 3-unit cognate course under the Masters in Business Administration (MBA) program.

Certificate Programs on Linguistic Research

The Linguistic Society of the Philippines (LSP), the premier organization of linguists and language

specialists in the country has forged a partnership with the UST Graduate School Center for Continuing Professional Education and Development to offer and conduct Certificate Programs on the following learning tracks: technologies in conducting linguistic research, language documentation, and corpus-based research. The intensive program which is slated to commence in June 2020, aims to provide linguists, teachers, language scholars, researchers, cultural workers and policy makers with necessary technological scaffolding for the documentation of languages through the introduction of software that can aid in organizing and processing data gathered from the field.

The LSP was represented in the signing ceremony on October 1, 2019 by its President, Assoc. Prof. Alejandro S. Bernardo, Ph.D., and its Treasurer, Assoc. Prof. Rachele B. Lintao, Ph.D. On behalf of UST, present were UST Graduate School Dean Prof. Michael Anthony Vasco, Ph.D., and UST GS CCPED Director Assoc. Prof. Jocelyn F. Agcaoili.



(From left:) Assoc. Prof. Agcaoili, Dean Vasco, LSP President and UST Graduate School Secretary Assoc. Prof. Alejandro S. Bernardo, Ph.D., and LSP Treasurer and UST Department of English Chair Assoc. Prof. Rachele B. Lintao, Ph.D.

RESEARCH

RCSSED researchers receive research grants from UEA UNESCO Chair for research on family literacy



Asst. Prof. Gina Lontoc, Ph.D.



Prof. Camilla Vizconde, Ph.D.



Prof. Belinda de Castro, Ph.D.

Three researchers of the Research Center for Social Sciences and Education (RCSSED) led by Asst. Prof. Gina Lontoc, Ph.D., and her co-researchers, Prof. Camilla Vizconde, Ph.D., and Prof. Belinda de Castro, Ph.D., received research grants under the Global Challenges Research Funds (GCRF) and the Global Research Translation Awards (GRTA).

Both research projects are led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Chair team of the University of East Anglia, United Kingdom, in collaboration with its partners in Malawi (University of Malawi), Nepal (Centre for Educational Innovation and Development), Ethiopia (Bahir Dar University), and the Philippines (University of Santo Tomas), as well as UNESCO Paris and UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning Hamburg, who will host international dissemination events. The GCRF project started on September 1, 2019 and will run for ten months while the GRTA project started a month later and will run for 18 months.

These projects build directly on the UEA QR GCRF-funded UNESCO Chair International Workshop program held in Ethiopia (Bahir Dar, May 2019), where researchers and practitioners have

identified the neglect of adult literacy within the development policy framework at the national and international level as a major issue that affects financially incapable women in particular. A concept of family literacy built on indigenous learning has emerged and will be developed in relation to policy formulation and implementation within each partner country.

With these successful grant applications, the UEA UNESCO Chair and its partner institutions are putting forward a new concept of family literacy based on 'indigenous inter-generational learning,' on the premise that about less than a billion adults – the majority of these are women – are reported to be functionally illiterate. It has often been the case that in terms of policy formulation and implementation-things are often wanting in matters of adult literacy, and not a priority of government policy-makers, and executive leaders.

Experts have mentioned that adult literacy and learning are considered the 'tie that binds' the whole gamut of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The project's goal is to show how a community-based inter-generational approach to family literacy and learning can contribute to the achievement of selected SDGs, when built on local and/or indigenous knowledge and practice.

Family literacy and learning is captioned as a 'transformative and innovative tool' that works across generations, between and among institutions and through interdisciplinary collaboration." As a sector-wide approach, family learning brings together the different components of early childhood and school education, youth and adult learning.

Through the conduct of action-oriented research with different groups from each country, the projects will develop an intensive grass-root approach to family literacy and learning, as deeply rooted in people's everyday activities. Interactive stakeholder workshops will be held in each country to share findings, interrogate current adult literacy practices and integrate this new concept of family literacy and learning into national and international policy. The pertinent findings of the research projects in each of the country in focus will be disseminated across the world by the 700+ UNESCO chairs.

The GCRF Project: Interactive Stakeholders' Workshops, Documentary Analysis and Ethnographic Studies

In collaboration with the UEA UNESCO Chair partner universities in Ethiopia,

RCSSED RESEARCHERS RECEIVE RESEARCH GRANTS TO PAGE 7

RCSSED RESEARCHERS RECEIVE RESEARCH GRANTS FROM PAGE 6

Nepal, Malawi and the Philippines, comparative ethnographic studies will be conducted on indigenous approaches to inter-generational learning and knowledge creation, alongside documentary analysis of existing family literacy programs in these countries. The project includes research-policy interaction and dissemination activities to engage international, national and local stakeholders. This also involves capacity building in relation to the research teams in each partner university where early career researchers and postgraduate students will be involved.

One of the activities supported by GCRF is the Postgraduate Forum on Adult Education 2019 which was held at the University of Santo Tomas on November 9, 2019. This was in response to challenges posed by communities to provide access to education, whether formal or non-formal, to all members of the society. Through the partnership between the Graduate School of the University of Santo Tomas and Research Center for Social Sciences and Education (RCSSED), this forum, with the theme, "Adult Literacy Programs and Family-Centered Practices in Community Building: Revisiting the Roles of Philippine Higher Education" aimed to raise debates on the changing landscapes of adult literacy, the drivers of change and its challenges. It also highlighted how adult literacy programs have become instrumental in supporting families and building communities.

Presentations from various Higher Education Institutions tackled the status of adult literacy programs implemented in their institutions alongside the discussion of challenges, issues and future directions for adult education and inter-generational learning. Through research studies that are to be simultaneously conducted in Malawi, Ethiopia, Nepal and the Philippines, these GCRF funded activities will contribute to national and international understanding about how family literacy policy and programs can contribute to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, particularly in relation to gender equality, health, agriculture and education.

GCRF funded activities address educational and health inequalities in the countries and research sites, as well as other contexts. It is perceived that one major contribution of GCRF projects is

to bring policy makers' and educators' attention to the disparity between current mainstream approaches to adult/family literacy instruction and the ways in which adults and children learn in everyday life - and the importance of recognizing that such educational practice can negatively affect sustainable development.

The GRTA Project: e-ethnography: Exploring the potentials of family literacy and virtual ethnography in achieving food security through sustainable organic agricultural practices

The GRTA project will be based on action-oriented research on family literacy and indigenous learning in diverse contexts in the four participating countries. Stakeholder workshops at the local and national levels will share what 'family and inter-generational learning' means to these communities, along with the analysis of existing adult literacy policy programs. Practical guidelines for family literacy will be co-developed, which is hoped to be adapted by governments and NGO programs. Comparative analysis conducted across the four countries and outputs from the country-level workshops will form the basis of the research seminar in UIL, leading to new guidelines for family literacy. The partner university team in each country will also produce a country-specific report for dissemination through UNESCO offices.

Under the GRTA scheme, UST RCSSED team proposed a research project which aims to study how family literacy can build on indigenous learning in order to contribute to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, particularly the gender equality (SDG5), health and nutrition (SDG3), agriculture (SDG2) and education (SDG4) goals. Using mobile technology, this study explores the potentials of inter-generational learning and virtual ethnography in promoting sustainable organic agriculture and food security in poor rural communities.

This study involves students from Don Bosco Training Center (DBTC) who are enrolled in Organic Agriculture Production NC II and members of women's organizations together with their sons and daughters, who are interested in engaging in organic agriculture and who are part of the Pantawid and Pamilyang Pilipino

Program (4Ps) facilitated by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in Pinili, San Jose, Nueva Ecija. Through this collaboration, youth will be seen as drivers of change by participating actively in addressing pressing community issues that impact their communities.

This study uses family literacy and learning as a transformative and innovative approach that works across generations, between institutions and through interdisciplinary collaboration. Furthermore, it seeks to understand more about how adults, children and young people learn and teach each other skills and knowledge in the community. This might be agricultural skills, like learning to herd animals, or new skills like using a mobile phone.

The project is linked to one of the basic premises of the policy framework for food security of FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) of the United Nations which states that 'in order for people to feed themselves according to their needs, they must possess the capabilities to produce their own food or they should obtain sufficient income to buy their food (FAO, 2017).' This is related to one of the top priorities of the 2030 Agenda, which considers agricultural initiatives and rural development as powerful tools to end poverty and hunger. This would not only mean a boost in crop yield but also an increase in economic opportunities in the agricultural sector.

Moreover, this project entails interdisciplinary research collaborations among the faculties, colleges, and institutes of the University of Santo Tomas. Colegio de San Juan de Letran, another Dominican institution, and Don Bosco Training Center, a technical vocational school, will also be involved. Local government units such as barangays, and government agencies (Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Department of Agriculture) will take part in this study.

One important contribution of UST RCSSED team to this GRTA project is the creation of web/mobile application. This app is for parents and youth to document their experiences, to access resources, to upload e-manuals, and to use this tool for project monitoring and dissemination with the teams in Ethiopia, Malawi, Nepal, and UK.

LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

UST Canon Law holds Seminar on Matrimonial Law



UST Faculty of Canon Law Dean Rev. Fr. Isaias Tiongco, O.P., J.C.D., (front row, right) and Rev. Fr. Julius Paul Factora, O.P., J.C.D., (front row, left) with participants

Answering the call of *Veritatis Gaudium* and the Instruction on the Reform of the Matrimonial Process, the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Canon Law organized a seminar on Matrimonial Law with Rev. Fr. Julius Paul Factora, O.P., J.C.D., as resource speaker. It was held on October 24, 2019, at the UST Martyrs' Hall of the Ecclesiastical Faculties.

The seminar was attended mainly by parish priests and their vicars who are the frontliners in addressing the queries and concerns of their parishioners regarding marriage.

The seminar is the UST Faculty of Canon Law's way of making the Holy Father's apostolic letter *Mitis Iudex Dominus Iesus* and the reforms on the matrimonial tribunal process that he introduced relevant and known to the clergy. This seminar is the first of two parts, and another seminar is set to discuss the new process of declaration of nullity for those who want to become familiar with the procedure.

Javate of USTH shares advancements in Millennial Ophthalmology at various fora in USA, Europe, Asia

The University of Santo Tomas Hospital (USTH) is home to world-renowned physicians of various specialties meeting the demands of the modern era. Dr. Reynaldo M. Javate, current chairman of the USTH Eye Institute and a professor of the UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery is one of the shining leaders in the field of Ophthalmology being one of the pioneers in Lacrimal, Orbital, and Oculoplastic surgery.

Dr. Javate is a recipient of various titles and awards both from local and international prestigious institutions for his numerous contributions in the field of Ophthalmology. His research work incorporates endoscopy and radiology in his operative techniques. It is his expertise that has brought him to various parts of the world as resource person and conference speaker and video presenter.

Javate's high-yield academic tour for the year 2019 included the American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting in Moscone Centre, San Francisco, USA. The meeting was held from October 12 to 15, 2019 where he gave a step-by-step instructional course on "Improving the Outcomes of Transcanalicular Endoscopic Lacrimal Duct Recanalization (TELDR)."

In Europe, Javate had his hands full with a three-day oral presentation in two European countries: first in Germany followed by his oral presentation in France.

In Paris, France, Javate delivered a concise, information-packed oral presentation on "Clinical Pearls and Pitfalls in Eyelid, Orbital, and Lacrimal Surgeries" at the FCI Distributors' meeting at the European Society of Cataract and Reflective Surgeons (ESCR) held on September 15, 2019.

Prior to this, Javate presented the topic "Optimizing Clinical Outcomes in Transcanalicular Endoscopic Lacrimal Duct Recanalization" at a Lunch Symposium at the European Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (ESOPRS) meeting held in Hamburg, Germany from September 13 to 14, 2019.

Showcasing his mastery by incorporating endoscopy with his techniques, Javate gave an oral presentation on "Lacrimal Recanalization using Dacryoendoscope" during the European Society of Ophthalmology meeting in Nice, France from June 13 to 16, 2019.



Dr. Javate at the 34th Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology Congress in Bangkok, Thailand

It was a busy month of March for Dr. Javate, who was in China, Thailand and Singapore for video and oral presentations. During the 17th Chinese National Training Course of Ocular Plastic and Aesthetic Surgery held from March 29 to 30, 2019 at Hefei, China, he delivered two lectures. His topic for the first oral presentation was "Rejuvenation of Midface of Orbital Region," while the second was titled "Periocular Rejuvenation and Radiosurgery: My 30-year Experience."

In Bangkok, Thailand, Javate discussed "Lacrimal Stents and Intubation System" during the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology Congress held from March 5 to 9, 2019.

Javate's first stint for the year was at the Academia, Singapore during the 5th International Thyroid Eye Disease Society (ITEDS) Symposium 2019 held from February 21 to 23, 2019. Through a video presentation, he showed his colleagues a highly modern "Endoscopic Orbital Decompression via Transcanalicular Approach for Compressive Optic Neuropathy."

ARTS AND CULTURE

Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo receives *Gawad Dangal ng Lahi* at 69th Palanca Awards

Renowned author and University of Santo Tomas Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies (CCWLS) Director Prof. Emeritus Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, Ph.D., was conferred the *Gawad Dangal ng Lahi* (Pride of the Race Award) at the 69th Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature held on November 8, 2019 at the Peninsula Hotel in Makati City.

The *Gawad Dangal ng Lahi*, one of Philippine Literature's most prestigious awards, recognizes significant contributions to the Philippine literary scene. Among the previous winners are Alfred "Krip" Yuson and Prof. Gemino H. Abad, Ph.D.

Hidalgo, who also teaches at the UST Graduate School, served as the guest of honor and speaker. She is a multi-awarded fictionist, critic, and pioneer of creative nonfiction in the Philippines. She has published more than 40 books and has received three Palanca awards, including the Grand Prize for Novel in 1996 for her epistolary novel *Recuerdo* (Remember). Last year, her work titled "The Thing with Feathers: My Book of Memories" was named Best Book of Essays in English at the 37th National Book Awards.

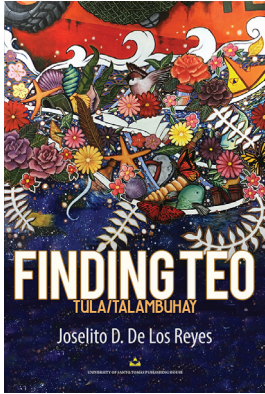
In a short statement posted on the Facebook page of the UST Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies, Hidalgo called the award "an unexpected blessing" and expressed her "deep gratitude to the Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature for this honor."

The Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature was established in 1950 to inspire and recognize Filipino writers, including poets, playwrights and screenwriters. This year, the Foundation honored 56 writers, 32 of whom are first-time awardees.

UST Department of Literature Chair Assoc. Prof. John Jack Wigley, Ph.D., and CCWLS Assistant Director Asst. Prof. Ralph Semino Galán, Creative Writing Program Coordinator Asst. Prof. Joselito Delos Reyes, Ph.D., Thomasian poet J. Neil Garcia from AB Journalism's Class of 1990, and UST Publishing House author Sarge Lacuesta were part of the roster of judges.



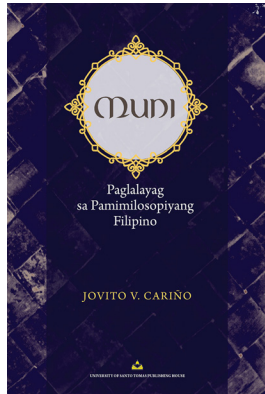
CCWLS Director Prof. Emeritus Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, Ph.D. (center), with Carl Anthony S. Palanca (left) and Mrs. Criselda 'Dang' Cecilio-Palanca from the Palanca Foundation [Photo courtesy of J. Neil Garcia]



"Finding Teo: Tula/Talambuhay" by Asst. Prof. Joselito delos Reyes, Ph.D.



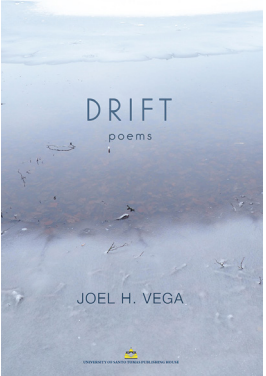
"Walang Iisang Salita" by Paul Alcoseba Castillo



"Muni: Paglalayag sa Pamimilosopiyang Filipino" by Assoc. Prof. Jovito Cariño, Ph.D.



"Drift" by Joel H. Vega



Four USTPH authors make it to 2019 National Book Awards

For the 38th National Book Awards, four books by the University of Santo Tomas Publishing House authors were named 'Best Book.' The winning works were announced on November 4, 2019 through the Facebook page of the National Book Development Board.

Awarded under the Literary Division were: Best Book of Nonfiction Prose in Filipino, Best Book of Poetry in Filipino, and Best Book of Poetry in English, and under the Non-Literary Division - Best Book in the Social Sciences.

For Best Book of Nonfiction Prose in Filipino, awarded was "Finding Teo: *Tula/Talambuhay*" by Asst. Prof. Joselito D. delos Reyes, Ph.D., Delos Reyes, an award-winning writer and poet, is currently the Creative Writing program coordinator of the Faculty of Arts and Letters. The book is a humorous biography of Teo T. Antonio, an award-winning poet in Filipino who studied Fine Arts at the University of Santo Tomas. The primary objective of delos Reyes's book is to introduce the poet to the reading public, particularly to the younger ones, by writing a biography of the poet using the popular language and approach that have made delos Reyes a widely read and followed social media personality.

The Best Book of Poetry in Filipino, "*Walang Iisang Salita*," was authored by Paul Alcoseba Castillo, who won a Palanca for Poetry in 2018 for his work "*Luna't Lunas*."

"*Walang Iisang Salita*," is a collection of Castillo's 41 poems. It revolves around playing with the idea of the Filipino idiom "*napakong pangako*" to reveal that everyone has the capacity for violence against one another through words, as well as the capacity to violate their own language.

Awarded Best Book of Poetry in English was "Drift" by Joel H. Vega.

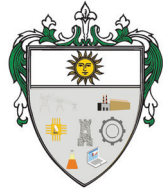
Vega has worked as a political and financial journalist in the Philippines and Saudi Arabia. He won the Carlos Palanca Memorial Literary Awards in 2010 for Poetry and in 2016, First Prize for the Essay. A visual artist, he has exhibited in Manila and in the Netherlands, and in various group shows held at the *Gemeentemuseum* in The Hague and Van Abbe Museum in Eindhoven. Vega lives in the Netherlands where he works as medical writer and editor. *Drift* is his first poetry collection. The book has 55 poems.

The Best Book in the Social Sciences was awarded to "*Muni: Paglalayag sa Pamimilosopiyang Filipino*" written by UST Department of Philosophy Chair Assoc. Prof. Jovito V. Cariño, Ph.D. This book is a flight not only towards a philosophy written in Filipino, but more importantly towards a "Filipino philosophy," through which, with the help of local and foreign philosophers, Cariño speculates on the question of Filipino-ness: the migrant experience, architecture and globalization, the conceptualization of freedom, and the dawdling yet always determined search for "being Filipino."

Held annually by the Manila Critics Circle (MCC) and the National Book Development Board (NBDB), the National Book Awards recognize the best of the previous year's locally published books.

Cash prizes and trophies will be awarded to the authors of the winning works in ceremonies that will be held on November 23 at the National Museum in Manila.

BOARD TOPNOTCHERS



Electronics Engineer Licensure Examination

October 2019

UST Passing Rate (First-time examinees): 82.46%
UST Passing Rate (Overall): 80%
National Passing Rate: 49.43%



1st – 92%
Neil Kenneth Tamina Mendoza



10th – 89.20%
Jay Patrick Monton Nieves



Psychologist Licensure Examination

October 2019

UST Passing Rate (First-time examinees): 92.31%
UST Passing Rate (Overall): 70.59%
National Passing Rate: 72.18%



4th – 84.60%
Elaine Fatima Acosta Simon



Psychometrician Licensure Examination

October 2019

UST Passing Rate (First-time examinees): 97.21%
UST Passing Rate (Overall): 96.74%
National Passing Rate: 63.73%



3rd – 86%
Darlene Angela
Castillo Ilagan



5th – 85.60%
Michelle Angela
Jurquia Arellano



5th – 85.60%
Catherine Hipolito
Manansala



5th – 85.60%
Jean-Clarence
De La Rosa Perias



7th – 85.20%
Cyrille Ann Patrice
Quiambao Chua



8th – 85%
Lejandro Raevino
De Mesa Toledo



9th – 84.80%
Alexandra Michaela
Borre Carmen



9th – 84.80%
Mark Allen
Trinidad De Lara



9th – 84.80%
Katrinka Gayle
Tesoro Galindez



9th – 84.80%
Samantha Isabelle
Yuson Soliven



9th – 84.80%
Micah Victoria
Sy Tan



9th – 84.80%
Julianne Khryztelle
Martin Torres



10th – 84.60%
Cristina
Gaspar Callangan



10th – 84.60%
Angel
Letun Hilario



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