



THE ACADEMIA

Official International Bulletin of the University of Santo Tomas

Vol. XLIX No.11-B

November 16-30, 2019

ISSN0117-0083



UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Herminio V. Dagohoy, O.P., (center) and PCIEERD Deputy Executive Director Raul Sabularse (second from left) sign the agreement, witnessed by (from left:) Chief Science Research Specialist Russell Pili, UST Vice Rector for Research and Innovation Prof. Maribel G. Nonato, Ph.D., and TBI Manager Engr. Raymond A. Marquez.

DOST, UST launch technology business incubator TOMASInno Center

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST), in partnership with the University of Santo Tomas held a soft launch of the DOST-TOMASInno Center, a technology business incubator (TBI), on November 15, 2019 at the UST Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, O.P. Building.

Engr. Raymond A. Marquez serves as the TBI Manager while Assoc. Prof. Michael Francis D. Benjamin, Ph.D., is the TBI Assistant Manager.

To mark the beginning of the Center, four partnership agreements with government and industry institutions were signed, namely, with DOST-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD), Santeh Feeds Corporation, Jollibee Group Foundation, Inc., and D&L Industries.

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DOST, UST LAUNCH FROM PAGE 1

Representing the University of Santo Tomas for the signing were UST Rector Very Rev Fr. Herminio V. Dagohoy, O.P., Vice Rector for Research and Innovation Prof. Maribel G. Nonato, Ph.D., and Engr. Marquez.

The first agreement, a memorandum of understanding between UST and DOST-PCIEERD, formalized the partnership between the two institutions. PCIEERD, which manages the Technology Business Incubation (TBI) program of the government, provided the research grant that made the TOMASInno Center possible through the Higher Education Institution Readiness for Innovation and Technopreneurship (HelRIT) program. Representing DOST-PCIEERD were its Deputy Executive Director Raul Sabularse and Chief Science Research Specialist Russell Pili.

According to the PCIEERD website, a TBI is “an ecosystem where innovation is promoted and supported towards commercialization” and helps technology-based business startups “by providing a range of resources, services, and facilities needed during the development stage.” By the time a business finishes the incubation program, it should be financially viable and ready to compete in the market. DOST’s TBI program has three main objectives: creating jobs, developing entrepreneurs, and promoting public-private partnerships in regional economic development.



UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Herminio V. Dagohoy, O.P., delivers his message.

The partnership agreement between Santeh Feeds Corporation (SFC), represented in the signing by its Chairman Phillip Ong and Administrative Manager Dhonna Noreiga, involves a licensing agreement for the Juan Amplification (JAmpl) Primer, a diagnostic tool used for early detection of the white spot syndrome virus (WSSV) in shrimps.

DOST, UST LAUNCH TO PAGE 3



Fr. Dagohoy (fifth from left) and D&L Managing Director Lester Lao (fourth from left), with (from left:) Technical Consultant David Peñaloza, Jr., Chemist Glenn Apostol, Technical Director Ms. Sonia Salvador, Prof. Nonato, and Engr. Marquez

DOST, UST LAUNCH FROM PAGE 2



Fr. Dagohoy (fourth from left) and Santeh Feeds Corporation Chairman Phillip Ong (third from left) with (from left:) Prof. Mary Beth Maningas, Ph.D., Administrative Manager Dhonna Noreiga, Prof. Nonato, and Engr. Marquez



Fr. Dagohoy (fifth from left) and JGFI Vice President Ms. Bellen Rillo (fourth from left) with (from left:) Dr. Benjamin, JGFI Program Officer Ms. Sharleen Alayat, JGFI Executive Director Ms. Gisela Tiongson, Prof. Nonato, and Engr. Marquez

Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD) website, the primer kit uses loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) assay for the detection of WSSV and “helps in improving farm management practices and reduces the country’s dependence on expensive and imported diagnostic kits.”

For the partnership with the Jollibee Group Foundation, Inc. (JGFI), UST joined its Learning Express – Farmer Entrepreneurship Program (LEx-FEP) initiative, which trains local farmers on agro-entrepreneurship, and according to the JGFI website, builds “their capacities to supply vegetables in a manner that meets the standards and requirements of corporate buyers while ensuring farmers make a profit.” Representatives of JGFI included its Vice President Ms. Bellen Rillo, Executive Director Ms. Gisela Tiongson, and Program Officer Ms. Sharleen Alayat.

D&L Industries, represented by its Managing Director Lester Lao, Technical Director Ms. Sonia Salvador, Chemist Glenn Apostol, and Technical Consultant David Peñaloza, Jr., partnered with UST for academic and research collaborations.

The DOST-TOMASInno Center is expected to open in early 2020.

The aforementioned primer developed by Prof. Mary Beth B. Maningas, Ph.D., and her team of investigators originally won the Outstanding Invention Award (*Tuklas* category) during the 2018 National Invention Contest and Exhibits (NICE) of the DOST Technology Application and Promotion Institute (DOST-TAPI). According to the DOST Philippine



Vice President of the Philippines Her Excellency Maria Leonor "Leni" G. Robredo (center), and UST Vice Rector for Research and Innovation Prof. Maribel G. Nonato, Ph.D. (third from left), with (from left:) UST Graduate School Dean Prof. Michael Anthony C. Vasco, Ph.D., UST RCSSED Director Prof. Belinda De Castro, Ph.D., GALACST Conference Chair and UST Graduate School Assistant Dean Prof. Camilla Vizconde, Ph.D., UNESCO Chairholder for Adult Literacy and Learning for Social Transformation Professor Anna Robinson-Pant, D.Phil, and UST Office of Public Affairs Director Assoc. Prof. Giovanna V. Fontanilla, Ph.D.

UNESCO int'l conference at UST focuses on social transformation, empowerment

The University of Santo Tomas, in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Chair in Adult Literacy and Learning for Social Transformation based in the University of East Anglia (UEA), United Kingdom, held the first International conference on Gender, Adult Literacy, and Active Citizenship for Social Transformation (GALACST) from November 20 to 22, 2019, at the UST Paredes Building.

With the theme "Literacies, Gender Equality, and Active Citizenship as Pathways to Empowerment and Social Transformation," the conference aimed to engage participants in exploring how literacies, gender equality, and global citizenship can play key roles in the achievement of the United Nations'

Sustainable Development Goals. The UST Faculty of Arts and Letters and the Research Center for Social Sciences and Education spearheaded the program, while UST Graduate School Assistant Dean Prof. Camilla J. Vizconde, Ph.D., served as Conference Chair.

UNESCO Chairholder for Adult Literacy and Learning for Social Transformation and UEA School of Education and Lifelong Learning Professor Anna Robinson-Pant, D.Phil, was the first keynote speaker. She concurrently serves as the British Association for International & Comparative Education President. Her talk focused on the complex relationship among Adult Literacy, Learning, and Social Transformation. Using the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations as her expected outcomes, she

investigated alternative theoretical and methodological approaches that may bring about lifelong education beyond the confines of structures and institutions for formal education.

Conference plenary speakers include Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Deputy Director General for Policies and Planning Rosanna Urdaneta, UEA School of International Development Senior Research Associate Dr. Sheila Aikman, and Philippine Investment Management (PHINMA) Education President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Chito Salazar.

UNESCO INT'L CONFERENCE TO PAGE 5

UNESCO INT'L CONFERENCE FROM PAGE 4



(From left:) UST RCSSED Director Prof. Belinda De Castro, Ph.D., UST Faculty of Arts and Letters Dean Prof. Marilu R. Madrunio, Ph.D., Professor Anna Robinson-Pant, D.Phil, and UST Vice Rector for Research and Innovation Prof. Maribel G. Nonato, Ph.D.



Vice President of the Philippines Her Excellency Maria Leonor "Leni" G. Robredo delivers a speech.



GALACST Conference Chair and UST Graduate School Assistant Dean Prof. Camilla J. Vizconde, Ph.D., speaks during the conference.



UEA School of International Development Senior Research Associate Dr. Sheila Aikman during the plenary talk



Transformare Network President Asst. Prof. Gina Lontoc, Ph.D., engages with conference participants.

"Transformare: A Network of Gender and Adult Literacy Advocates" was launched. Transformare is an interdisciplinary network of committed academics, practitioners, advocates and policy makers who engage in promoting adult literacy, lifelong learning, and active citizenship in the Philippines. Asst. Prof. Gina Lontoc, Ph.D., faculty member and researcher at the UST RCSSED, serves as its president.

Guest speaker for the launch was Associate Academic of the UNESCO Chair for Adult Literacy and Learning for Social Transformation Dr. Ulrike Hanemann. She

discussed the different pedagogies of autonomy, hope, diversity, tenderness of the heart, democracy, indignation, and the unfinished.

On the third day of the conference, Vice President of the Philippines Her Excellency Maria Leonor "Leni" G. Robredo served as keynote speaker. A human rights lawyer, she has previously lawyered for battered wives in the grassroots and championed the Comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Bill (House Bill 3432) in the 16th Congress, which aimed to prohibit discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, race, religion, sex, gender, language, disability, and other factors.

Sharing her rich experiences of working to empower rural women, the Vice President explained four principles underlying the ongoing efforts of her Office for empowering women entrepreneurs.

"To close the gender gap, at least four things should happen: make it safe and fair for women to do trade related businesses, second, bring more women in to the work force and achieve gender parity in the workplace, third make space for women-led enterprises, and fourth, facilitate equal access to technology," said VP Robredo. She added that "Real empowerment comes not only from economic empowerment but also the confidence and self-esteem developed through this."

IICS director Padua is elected secretary of CODITE NCR



Padua

University of Santo Tomas Institute of Information and Computing Sciences Director Asst. Prof. Jerralyn Padua was elected secretary of the Council of Deans for Information Technology Education-NCR (CODITE) during the Council's General Assembly held on October 25, 2019 at the University of Asia and Pacific, Ortigas, Pasig City.

The newly-elected officers are: Dr. Tina Aragon (Technological Institute of the Philippines-Q.C.), President, Dr. Norman Lee (De La Salle-College of St. Benilde), Vice President, Asst. Prof. Jerralyn Padua (University of Santo Tomas), Secretary, Dr. Tess Pancho (Arellano University), Treasurer, Ms. Teresa Borebor (University of the East, Manila), Auditor, Dr. Shane Ambat-Magnaye (FEU-Tech), Representative for South Cluster, Mr. Rodrigo Calapan (Lyceum of Alabang), Representative for CAMANAVA Cluster, Mr. Joferson Bombasi, Representative for Manila Cluster, Ms. Raychelou Valencia (AU Plaridel), Representative for QC Cluster. The new set of officers will have a term from 2019 to 2021.

The Council of Deans for Information Technology Education-NCR, Inc. was established

on August 31, 2016 through the help and support of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). After two years of completing documentary requirements as part of its establishment, it was then launched at the University of the East, Caloocan in October 2018 during the First CODITE-NCR Conference, which was attended by deans, program heads of universities, institutions, schools offering computing courses such as: BS Computer Science, BS Information Technology, BS Information Systems, and BS Entertainment and Multimedia Computing. At present, CODITE-NCR, Inc. has 40 member schools.

CODITE-NCR, Inc. aims to create a network of universities/colleges/institutes/schools that offer IT education to be able to share good practices, provide quality assurance, assist its members to attain accreditation status, closely coordinate with local and international accreditation bodies to promote a culture of excellence amongst its member institutions.

Junior High School wins 6 medals at 2019 Thailand Mathematical Olympiad Philippines Heat

Six students from the UST Junior High School emerged victorious in the recently concluded 2019 Thailand International Mathematics Olympiad Philippines Heat which was held on October 27, 2019 at the University of the Philippines-Diliman. Silver Medalists were: Fatma Zahra S. Abdulrahman (St. Bertrand), Lorraine Joy L. Calica (St. Clement), and Lance Joel R. Astorga (St. Catherine). The Bronze Medalists



were: Raven Angela O. Dumlao (St. Andrew), James Alistair I. Meñez (St. Aurea), and Jenielyn L. Policarpio (St. Diana). These student-qualifiers will represent UST and the Philippines in the Thailand International Math Olympiad Finals Heat to be held in Chiang-Mai, Thailand in April 2020.

(From left:) Astorga, Calica, Abdulrahman, Policarpio, Dumlao, Menez, and their adviser Mr. Karlo Jay L. Perez

UNITAS publishes monograph on Indonesian author YB Mangunwijaya



UNITAS editorial staff members, Ms. Nicole R. Tablizo (left) and Ms. Vae Ann C. Dadia during the 7th Literary Studies Conference

For its Vol. 84 no. 1 issue, UNITAS launched a monograph titled "Reappropriating National Discourse: 'National Allegory' in *The Weaverbirds* and *The Migratory Birds* by YB Mangunwijaya" by Fransiscus Xaverius Siswadi on October 9, 2019 at the Universitas Sanata Dharma (USD), Jogjakarta, Indonesia. The late Fransiscus Xaverius Siswadi was the dean of USD's Faculty of Humanities. The launch, which took place during the 7th Literary Studies Conference hosted by the USD, was attended by scholars from different countries.

The late YB Mangunwijaya, the author of the novels *The Weaverbirds* and *The Migratory Birds*, which were studied by Siswadi, is an important figure in

Indonesian letters. He problematized in his writings the issue of Indonesian nationalism, and its intricacies, in the age of globalization. Despite his novel, *The Weaverbirds*, being translated into English, Mangunwijaya's fame in the world literary space is overshadowed by Pramoedya Ananta Toer, the representative author from Indonesia decreed by the world literary space.

Although Pramoedya's *Buru Quartet* also problematizes nationhood and nationalism by providing an alternative history of Indonesia against the official history of Dutch colonialism and Suharto's New Order, it is Mangunwijaya who continues to provide readers with an alternative discourse through the post-Independence

and New Order Indonesia when Indonesia nationhood and nationalism are faced with the onset of globalization. Though the concept of "nation" is powerful in that it can unify, it also has the tendency to exclude others which do not fit the ideology that runs the concept. Mangunwijaya offers insight to this exclusionary tendency of the nation by arguing that the "nation" should not be above the human values of justice, democracy, and humanitarianism.

This monograph is in pursuit of the UNITAS journal's aim, not only to publish international authors, but also to give platform to studies on important figureheads who deserve to be read and made available to a wider audience through the open access platform of UNITAS.

LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

Fr. Tiongco of Canon Law delivers Plenary Lecture at Conference on *Veritatis Gaudium*



His Eminence Giuseppe Cardinal Versaldi (front row, fifth from left) with conference speakers and participants, including Fr. Tiongco (front row, third from left)

UST Faculty of Canon Law Dean Rev. Fr. Isaias D. Tiongco, O.P., delivered the plenary lecture during the International Conference organized by the Catholic University of Korea on the Apostolic Constitution *Veritatis Gaudium* on November 09, 2019 at the Catholic University of Korea (CUK). His plenary talk was titled 'UST Faculty of Canon Law's Response to the Instructions of the Holy See for the Study of Canon Law.'

The Conference was sponsored by His Eminence Cardinal Andrew Yeom Soo-jung, D.D., of the Archdiocese of Seoul through the Office of the President of CUK, Rev. Fr. Luke Jongchul Won, Ed.D. The conference was aimed primarily to discuss *Veritatis Gaudium's* relevance to the contemporary times as it directs the reforms of the institutions erected by the Holy See for the purpose of training men and women so they could earn the canonical degrees granted by the Catholic Church.

The conference on *Veritatis Gaudium* was able to explain the relevance of the Apostolic Constitution, and the implication of CUK's privilege to grant the canonical degrees, to the local Church in South Korea. The event was made

more meaningful by the presence of His Eminence Giuseppe Cardinal Versaldi, D.D., Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education (CCE), whose Keynote Address highlighted paragraph four of the Constitution's *Introduction* which spoke about the 'fundamental criteria for the renewal and revival of the contribution of ecclesiastical studies to a Church of missionary outreach.'

The other plenary lectures were delivered by Fr. Tiongco, O.P., Fr. Paul Yeongjoon Jeon, S.Th.D., Director of CUK College of Theology, who talked about "The Meaning of Granting an Ecclesiastical Degree in Korean Church," and Fr. Stefano Youngman Han, JCD, Director of CUK Institute of Canon Law, who spoke about "The Role of Canon Law in the Life of Particular Churches."

The relationship of the University of Santo Tomas and the Catholic University of Korea has grown in the past two years, especially through the Aggregation of the latter's Institute of Canon Law and College of Theology to the former's Faculty of Canon Law and Faculty of Sacred Theology respectively. The Aggregation allows UST to confer the degrees of Licentiate in Canon



UST Faculty of Canon Law Dean Rev. Fr. Isaias D. Tiongco, O.P.

Law, Bachelor in Sacred Theology, and Licentiate in Sacred Theology through the above Institute and College of CUK by the authority of the Holy See. This makes CUK the first university in South Korea to grant Ecclesiastical degrees.

Present in the conference were the professors, students and members of the local Church of Seoul. Msgr. John Brillantes, a Filipino priest who works at CCE, was also one of the Conference guests. UST's participation in the conference was a concrete gesture of support for the success and growth of these first ecclesiastical educational institutions on Korean soil.

Creating more academic collaborations for the Faculty, Fr. Tiongco was also recently appointed member of the Board of Consultants of the Canon Law Centre of Australian Catholic University.

UST Dept. of English holds special lecture on Language and Migration

The University of Santo Tomas Department of English, the Faculty of Arts and Letters together with the Linguistic Society of the Philippines held a special lecture on "The Three Pillars of Language and Migration Studies: Positioning the Filipinos in Hawaii, USA. The lecture was held on November 16, 2019 at the CME Auditorium of the UST Medicine Building.

The Guest Speaker was Prof. Rodney C. Jubilado, Ph.D. of the University of Hawaii at Hilo, Hawaii, where he is the chair of its Humanities Division.

Jubilado, whose research interest is on heritage education, migration, and Southeast Asian cultural studies, is currently writing a new book about heritage education of the Filipinos in Hawaii. Having lived and taught in Hawaii for some years now, Jubilado has been observing and studying the language of the Filipinos who have migrated to Hawaii. He explained that "When people migrate, they bring with them their language and culture. For Filipinos, it means bringing various languages and indigenous or amalgamated cultures."

In his lecture, Jubilado spoke about the early migration of the Filipinos to America explaining that it was primarily caused by the colonization of the Philippines by Spain and by the USA, with the earliest recorded history taking place in the 17th century. As of 2017, Jubilado shared that based on

the statistics by the US Census Bureau of 2017, there are approximately 4,037,564 Filipinos in the USA, making them the second largest Asian group next to the Chinese.

Generations later, Jubilado's research reveals that the Filipino-Americans now are (1) English monolinguals or bilinguals and heritage speakers of any of Philippine languages, and (2) strong Filipino identities or totally mainstream Americans.

The research further shares that three Philippine languages are spoken widely in America in this order: Tagalog/Filipino, Ilocano, and Cebuano/Visayan, which is similar to the case in Hawaii. Since the focus of this study is Hawaii, Jubilado's research attempts to provide a picture of what and who are the Filipinos from the perspective of language, culture and identity, using the lenses provided by the fields of heritage education, identity, and migration.

The lecture was made more interesting with the video presentations that highlighted points in the lecturer's discussion of the

Filipino-Americans' culture, identity and language.

The audience was composed of faculty members of the English Department, undergraduate students from the Faculty of Arts and Letters under the English Language Studies (ELS) program, students of the UST Graduate School under the ELS program both in the Master's and Doctorate levels, and guests from other universities such as the De La Salle University, Far Eastern University, Philippine Normal University, Philippine Women's University, and National University.

According to UST Department of English Chair Prof. Rachele B. Lintao, Ph.D., the invitation for Dr. Rodney Jubilado to speak in UST was made possible through the collaboration with the Linguistic Society of the Philippines, the president of which is the UST Graduate School Faculty Secretary Assoc. Prof. Alejandro Bernardo, Ph.D. The lecture was held in collaboration with the Faculty of Arts and Letters, whose Dean, Dr. Madrunio, was once president of LSP.



Dr. Rodney Jubilado delivers his lecture.



(From left:) UST English Department Chair Prof. Rachele B. Lintao, Ph.D., LSP Vice President Prof. Leah Gustilo, Ph.D., UST Faculty of Arts and Letters Dean Prof. Marilu R. Madrunio, Ph.D., Prof. Rodney Jubilado, Ph.D., UST Graduate School Secretary and LSP President Assoc. Prof. Alejandro S. Bernardo, Ph.D., and FEU Professor Dennis Pulido, Ph.D.

Domingo of IICS presents paper on Breast Cancer prediction at int'l conference on Advance Information Science



Domingo (left) receives her certificate.

Institute of Information and Computing Sciences faculty member Asst. Prof. Mylene J. Domingo presented a paper titled “Fuzzy Decision Tree for Breast Cancer Prediction” during the 2019 International Conference on Advanced Information Science and System and the 2019 International Conference on Algorithms, Machine Learning and Signal Processing held from November 15 to 17, 2019 at the Nanyang Executive Centre, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

In her paper, Domingo discussed the use of data mining to predict the stage of cancer using a hybrid of fuzzy logic and decision tree. Her research aims to help experts make decisions, instead of replacing them. The research provides recommendations, but the final decision still remains with the expert, according to Domingo, who once served as Secretary of IICS.

Data mining is defined as the process of discovering patterns in large data sets involving methods at the intersection of machine learning, statistics, and database systems.

Decision tree is a classification algorithm that uses tree-like model of decisions. It handles both continuous and categorical attribute. Decision Tree algorithms uses IF-THEN expressions where the conditions are logically connected.

Domingo explains that fuzzy logic has the capability to deal with problems with uncertainty similar to reasoning of experts. It is a logic system that deals with values between 0 and 1, which should be measured as degrees of truth while the decision tree that only deals with values as either 0 or 1.

For this research, Domingo used feature selection to determine the best attribute in the dataset from Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER). Although the data set consists of incidence from 1975 to 2016, the study limited its analysis from the year 2010 to 2016. Different cleaning and preprocessing of data were conducted. After thorough preprocessing of data, one target class and six attributes were selected.

Performance comparison showed that the fuzzy decision tree achieved a higher accuracy of 99.96%, sensitivity of 99.26% and specificity of 99.98% than the decision tree classification technique. The simulation result showed a correctly classified instance of 165,124, which is equivalent to 99.97% and only 351 incorrect classified instances or 0.21%. Her research showed that a fuzzy decision tree is more robust than the traditional decision tree classifier for predicting the stage of breast cancer.

Paper presenters were from China, Norway, Korea, Singapore, Turkey, India, Thailand, Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Ukraine, among others.

Literature, research publication as common points to foster ties between UST-UKI



Literature faculty members Ms. Nicole R. Tablizo (second from left) and Ms. Vae Ann C. Dadia (fifth from left), with DIALEKTIKA editorial staff members and faculty members of the English Department of UKI.

Department of Literature faculty members and UNITAS editorial staff members Ms. Nicole R. Tablizo and Ms. Vae Ann C. Dadia were invited by the Faculty of Letters of the Universitas Kristen Indonesia (UKI) as resource speakers on literature, and discussants in a roundtable discussion on journal publication. Both activities were held on October 7, 2019 at UKI.

Speaking before a group of UKI English language majors, Tablizo and Dadia delivered lectures that centered on “Emergent Critical Approaches to Philippine Texts.” Their key objective was to introduce Philippine literature to Indonesian students. The lectures were about Philippine literature through the critical lenses of feminism and ecocriticism. Tablizo’s lecture was titled “A Body and Self Not her Own: The Filipino woman in Philippine literature’s canonical fictional works” and Dadia’s lecture was titled “Super Typhoon and the Literary Imagination: Ecopoetics and Ecological Themes in Yolanda Relief Anthology Poems.”

During the Question and Answer (Q&A) session, the students of UKI showed enthusiasm in learning more about Philippine culture, society, and history as represented in Philippine literature. The speakers gave historically grounded answers to student queries in their attempt to explain Filipino culture. The questions posed were comparative in nature as the students were curious to know about their southeast Asian neighbour, the Philippines, which is geographically near yet would seem culturally distant. In her talk on feminism, Tablizo gave five examples of canonical fiction writing in the Philippines read under the theoretical lens of feminism. The students expressed interest with regards to feminism and gender studies in the Philippines.

Literature gleaned through ecocriticism was another relevant topic discussed by Dadia where she mentioned the 2004 earthquake and tsunami that affected the Indonesian islands of Sumatra, Java, and Bali, and Typhoon Haiyan, which had its

landfall in Tacloban, Leyte, Philippines, as prime examples of how timely discussions are on the global state of the environment.

In their lecture, Dadia and Tablizo urged the students to read Philippine literature in comparison with Indonesian literature. Both the Philippines and Indonesia suffered through centuries of colonialism, a fact the speakers were wont to highlight as it would be a good starting point in bolstering an engaging discussion on the two Southeast Asian neighbors. The exchange proved to be valuable as it gave the audience an insight into both Philippine and Indonesian culture and society.

Tablizo and Dadia met with the editorial staff members of DIALEKTIKA for a roundtable discussion. DIALEKTIKA is a journal in Bahasa Indonesia, published by the Fakultas Sastra. Their counterpart from UKI discussed journal publication concerns and strengthening of research interest and publication of the faculty members of UKI’s Department of English. The discussions centered on how to consistently publish a journal, procure articles for issues, and publicize the journal.

The UNITAS editorial staff members shared their best practices in the research journal, the usual challenges they experience and how the editorial team manages to solve them. UNITAS editorial team members also encouraged their Indonesian counterparts to begin publishing DIALEKTIKA as an open-access journal for the easier tracking and accessibility of scholarship to not only Indonesian students, professors, and scholars, but also to foreigners. Open-access journals help promote the mobility of scholarship. It was also suggested that UKI give research load instead of teaching load to its faculty to encourage their research publication.

As an expected outcome of this activity, the academic exchanges would become a regular occasion in the future and would produce meaningful collaborations between the two universities.

Castro, Corcuera of JHS present papers on social media, implementation of Math curriculum at Tokyo Conference

Junior High School Secretary Mr. Anthony C. Castro, a Mathematics teacher, and Mr. Joram Kim B. Corcuera, a part-time faculty member teaching English, presented their papers during the 11th International Conference of Education held at the Toshi Center Hotel in Tokyo, Japan from October 31 to November 3, 2019.

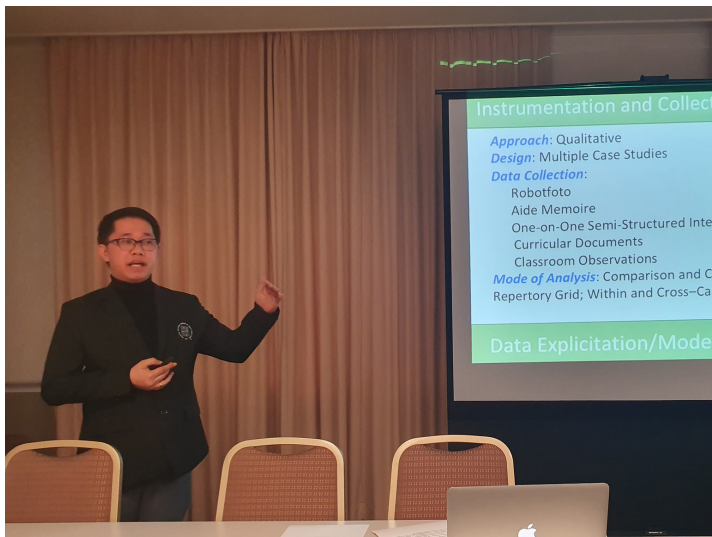
The research of Corcuera titled, "Exploring Social Media as a Communication Tool for Student-Athletes and their Formators," examined the use of social media as a communication tool among student-athletes and their formators, specifically their teachers, coaches, and athletic directors.

Castro presented his research paper titled "Teachers' Implementation of the New Grade 7 Mathematics Curriculum in Selected Schools: Opportunities for Improvement," looked into how Grade 7 Mathematics teachers implemented the new Grade 7 Mathematics curriculum, as expressed in the Department of Education's

Curriculum Guide. Specifically, the paper investigated how the teachers implement the curriculum in terms of content coverage, objectives, teaching-learning activities, and assessments, as well as the challenges they have encountered.

The multiple case studies design was used for the selected Metro Manila private schools under study. Data showed that the minimum standards set by the Department of Education have been met and that while efforts toward student-centered instruction were seen, only one out of all the observed lessons showed such. Recommendations included intensified teacher-training for better curriculum implementation.

More than six hundred delegates from more than 50 countries attended the said conference organized by the International Academic Forum. The Asian Conference is one of the largest international interdisciplinary academic conferences in Asia and includes The Asian Undergraduate Symposium (AURS).



Castro



Corcuera

Pavia of Science delivers plenary at international symposium on Philippine flora



Pavia delivers his lecture.

The Department of Biological Sciences of the UST College of Science co-organized and hosted the 5th International Symposium of the Philippine Native Plants Conservation Society, Inc. (PNPCSI) with the theme "Fighting for Philippine Flora: Victories, challenges and future directions." The event was held at the auditorium of the Central Laboratory Building, UST, from November 13 to 15, 2019.

College of Science faculty member Dr. Richard Thomas B. Pavia, Jr., delivered a plenary lecture on "The Nepenthes trade in the Philippines." Pavia, a marine biologist by training, is a self-confessed "Nepenthaholic."

Nepenthes khasiana, according to the website, is a protected species, classified as endangered. The threats include habitat destruction, acid mine drainage associated with coal mining, and collection for medicinal and ornamental uses. The genus *Nepenthes* is mostly found within the Malay Archipelago, with the greatest biodiversity found in Borneo, Sumatra, and the Philippines, especially in

the Borneo montane rain forests.

The other plenary lectures were delivered by Dr. Junichi Fujinuma of the University of the Ryukyus, Japan ("Beta diversity of vascular plants in east Asian tropics and temperate insular biotas: conservation perspectives of highly endemic Philippine flora"); UST Biology alumnus Dr. Nikki Dagamac of the University of Greifswald, Germany ("Mapping Potential Species Distribution Using Ecological Niche Modeling: The Hows and So Whats?"); Dr. Rosario Rubite of the University of the Philippines-Manila ("Philippine flora too many but Filipino taxonomists too few?"); and Dr. Ming-Jou Wu of the National Dong Hwa University, Taiwan ("Fighting for a revision of Malesian *Phyllantas*: Victories, Challenges and Future Directions").

The keynote lecture was delivered by Dr. Filiberto Pollisco, Jr. on behalf of Dr. Theresa Mundita Lim of the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity.

UST Assoc. Prof. Dr. Cecilia Banag-Moran is the Vice President of PNPCSI. She served as chair of the local organizing committee.

ARTS AND CULTURE

RCCAHA *Diskarte* Team-SALIKHA Creative Grant recipients launch forum on Design Culture



(From left, seated) Ar. Norma Alarcon, Ar. Royal Pineda, IDr. Budji Layug, and IDr. Mike Pizarro during the roundtable discussion

The first of the two-series, the 2019 Forum on Design Culture explored the aspects of design culture against the conceptual framework of Filipino resiliency and creative ingenuity. Featuring renowned practitioners and educators, the forum, held on November 13, 2019 at the UST Miguel de Benavides Library Conference Room, focused on design culture as practice and as academic discipline to articulate its theories and practices.

Among the resource speakers was Interior Designer Antonio “Budji” Layug who studied at the UST College of Architecture, and is recognized as one of the brains behind the Movement 8 and is credited for pushing the possibilities for Philippine products, placing Philippine design among the premier design houses of the world, through design and indigenous material exploration.

Layug, together with Royal Christopher Lopez Pineda, forms a formidable tandem in the field of design. Pineda, a well-rounded architect, trained under the firm of National Artist for Architecture Leandro V. Locsin. Pineda presented the concept of Total Design, the advocacy of the BUDJI + ROYAL+ Design + Architecture

that embraces nature and progressive Philippine design through their projects that are also featured in the recent publication ‘Budji: Design Journey.’

Royal Pineda discussed how practical luxury could be achieved for every Filipino through creative ingenuity. Design culture shapes identities and contributes to the advancement of nationalism and cultural pride. Sustainable design that re-invented the Philippine folk architecture are authentic and cosmopolitan. The resource speakers were joined by Arch. Norma Alarcon of the United Architects of the Philippines and IDr. Mike Pizarro of the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers during the round table discussion.

University of the Philippines-Diliman Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development IDr. Raquel Baltazar-Florendo, Ph.D., an interior designer and associate professor of interior design at the College of Home Economics, UP- Diliman, was another resource speaker. Design culture, according to her, is commonly shared value that is learned formally and informally, and creates its own language and fosters inclusivity and authenticity. “Design as a way of life,” the main theme

of her presentation tackled the need for reflexivity among baby boomers, generation X, the millennials, and the generation Z and the role of design in enriching the design practice and design education.

The resource speakers were joined by IDr. Trisha Ann Padernal of the interior design at the College of Home Economics, UP, Diliman, IDr. Kat Correa of the interior design program of the DLS-College of Saint Benilde, and Dean Ma. Lourdes Samson of the College of the Holy Spirit, during the round table discussion.

As part of the dissemination activities of “Diskarte: Understanding Design Culture Through the Filipino Chair,” a SALIKHA Project of CHED—NCCA for the K—12 transition program, the forum was organized by RCCAHA Research Fellows Diskarte Team and SALIKHA Creative Grant Recipients Asst. Prof. Guillerma Mendoza, MBA-project team lead, Assoc. Prof. Lilia de Jesus, Ph.D., Asst. Prof. Mary Grace Hernandez, and Assoc. Prof. Nady Nacario. Dr. Salvacion Villavicencio of the CHED NCCA Salikha program and Asst. Prof. Mary Christie Que graced the activities.

UST joins Manila City beautification project

Students from the University of Santo Tomas College of Fine Arts and Design (UST CFAD) joined the “Kaunlaran at Kagandahan sa Kamaynilaan” (Development and Beauty in Manila) beautification project of City Government of Manila on November 9, 2019. Alongside other students from different schools and groups, they painted designs on the support beams below Line 1 of the Light Rail Transit.

The project was initiated by the Manila Tourism and Cultural Affairs Bureau (MTCAB), with UST’s participation coordinated through the Office of Public Affairs and College of Fine Arts and Design.



CFAD students paint the support beams of the Light Rail Transit. [Photo courtesy of the Manila Public Information Office Facebook page]



UST CFAD Dean Mary Christie D. Que (standing, center) with faculty members and student participants, including Office of Public Affairs Secretary Ms. Shenine Pascual (standing, carrying UST folder) [Photo courtesy of UST CFAD Facebook page]

PHOTO FEATURE

Museum Collections



“HISTORY OF UST – MURAL 2”

Artist: GARCIA LLAMAS, Antonio

Medium: Oil on canvas

Date: ca. 1952-1954

Property No.: UST-H-00921B

One of four murals located at the UST Main Building lobby, this painting depicts the establishment of the University by the Dominican Order, the construction of the campus, and the conferment of degrees in theology and philosophy. It also commemorates the elevation of the college to a university by Pope Innocent X on November 20, 1645.



THE ACADEMIA

Official International Bulletin of the University of Santo Tomas

Vol. XLIX No.11-B

November 16-30, 2019

ISSN0117-0083

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