



# THE ACADEMIA

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## UST, European Union feature Swedish, Spanish, Filipino artists at symposium on Music, Dance



European Union Ambassador to the Philippines H.E. Franz Jessen engages participants during his message.



Swedish violinists and siblings Stefan Randehe (left) and Jeanette Kamphuis play a 'gånglåt,' a Swedish folk tune.

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The European Union in the Philippines, in partnership with the University of Santo Tomas through the Office of Public Affairs, presented the third discourse for HEMISPHERES: A European Union Cultural Symposium. With the theme "EU – PH Beat: Harmonising Notes and Rhythm," it was held on February 15, 2019 at the Dr. George S.K. Ty Hall, fourth floor, UST Blessed Buenaventura Garcia Paredes O.P. Building.

Speakers included Swedish classical violinists Jeanette Kamphuis and Stefan Randehe, Filipino cellist Renato Lucas from the UST Conservatory of Music, Filipino percussionist Jean Paul Zalcita, and Spanish flamenco guitarist Alejandro Alcaraz for the morning session on music, and ballet instructor Cherish Garcia, thespian Raflesia Chiara Bravo, and flamenco virtuoso Ma. Emma Estrada for the afternoon session on dance. These artists also performed for their audience

composed of students from the different colleges of UST and from other universities.

European Union Ambassador to the Philippines H.E. Franz Jessen graced the event. "I hope that when you listen to the music [that will be performed today], you would also be inspired to visit Europe, to learn of the history that it possesses and offers so much to the world," the Ambassador said in his message.

Swedish classical violinists and siblings Jeanette Kamphuis and Stefan Randehe played melodies including a 'gånglåt,' which is a type of Swedish folk walking or marching tune, followed by a 'polska' tune meant for lively dancing.

Concert cellist and conductor Renato Lucas, Ph.D., played solo pieces composed by Johannes Sebastian Bach, including the prelude from Suite No. 1 in G major, "Hiram"



Spanish flamenco guitarist Alejandro Alcaraz (left) and Filipino percussionist Jean Paul Zialcita perform a Buleria flamenco piece.



Concert cellist and conductor Renato Lucas, gives a brief historic background on Johannes Sebastian Bach after playing one of Bach's suites.

from the Filipino movie "Palimos ng Pag-ibig" (Begging for Love), and *Cavatina* by Nicanor Abelardo.

Filipino percussionist Jean Paul Zialcita, who is known for using upcycled and found objects in his musical performances, such as empty or partially-filled five-gallon water bottles, together with Spanish flamenco guitarist Alejandro Alcaraz, who has been playing flamenco music in public performances since he was 16 years old, performed untitled individual pieces before teaming up to play a fast-paced modern tango. The duo proceeded to play flamenco pieces from the different regions of Spain and even invited students to join them in one of their performances. For their finale number, they played a flamenco melody in the "Buleria" style, which is characterized by a fast rhythm and a redoubled beat.

In turn, a UST guitar ensemble, who had the honor of playing before Her Majesty Queen Sofia of Spain during her visit to UST in 2012, played two songs, "Waltz of the Flowers" from the Nutcracker Suite by Tchaikovsky and "Djembe" by Andrew York, after the guest artists' performances. A question-and-answer portion with the four musicians followed.

For the afternoon session on dance, ballet instructor Cherish Garcia, a registered teacher of the Royal Academy of Dance in London, demonstrated classical and contemporary ballet dances with the assistance of two of her students and videos. Thespian Raflesia Chiarra

Bravo, who has performed in Europe and the Philippines, talked about her experiences and lessons learned in her long career in theatre. Finally, flamenco virtuoso Ma. Emma Estrada, founder of Fundación Centro Flamenco, discussed her passion for authentic flamenco. Estrada then demonstrated the rhythmic and fast-paced flamenco dances with accompaniments from guitarist Alejandro Alcaraz. Student volunteers had the opportunity to learn directly from Estrada as she led a short workshop, with percussionist Jean Paul Zialcita providing the beat.

Following Estrada's lecture, the UST Salingawi Dance Troupe presented the Jota Quirino, a Philippine folk dance marked by complex rhythms accompanied by clacking bamboo castanets. The Jota Quirino, which originated from the Quirino province in the north, is a dance of celebration performed during events such as fiestas.

"EU-PH Beat: Harmonising Notes and Rhythm" is the third Hemispheres symposium hosted by the University of Santo Tomas, with the first titled "In Focus: European Literature" in May 2017, and the second, "Art Through the Eyes of Europe" in August 2017.

Flamenco virtuoso Ma. Emma Estrada recalls revisiting the roots of authentic Flamenco in the prestigious Escuela Amor de Dios in Madrid.



Ballet instructor Cherish Garcia discusses classical and contemporary ballet.



Thespian Raflesia Bravo shares her experiences from performing in Filipino musical "Rak of Aegis" and her stage experiences in Europe.



# INTERNATIONALIZATION

## UST students take part in Asia World Model United Nations Conference in Thailand

### Electrical Engineering student leader learns more of climate change impact

Diane Mariella Maqui, a fourth year Electrical Engineering student of the Faculty of Engineering was chosen to be one of the delegates to the Asia World Model United Nation II (AWMUN) held from January 30, 2019 to February 2, 2019, at the Prince Palace Hotel and Windsor Suites Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.

Maqui, a student leader who serves as Tiger Radio Booth Head for UST Tiger TV, was selected along with 25,466 other applicants around the world to be an "Agent of Change" and was a part of the International Monetary Fund roster, assigned to Cuba. She applied online to be part of the conference and was asked as part of her application regarding her position on the topic: "The World's Dilemma: Enhancing World Action on climate change."

The conference served as a niche of ideas and cultural exchanges that aimed to forge better diplomatic ties with other countries, as well as hone the youth leaders' skills in grasping their advocacy on various topics such as climate change, talks on saving the environment, and many more.

Maqui said that she learned from the conference valuable lessons such as: Climate Change being a global phenomenon and each and every country has a different approach and ways to confront it. Having been assigned to a council where she was assigned as the delegate of Cuba, Maqui explained that, "I was able to study the problems they (Cubans) are facing and the solutions they proposed. I was able to compare it to the problems we have here in the Philippines. A speaker from the United Nation Environment Programme said that there are various ways to reduce GHG or Greenhouse gas: One is through Efficiency, second is through the Reduction of the consumption of fossil fuel on transportation and third is to increase ambition to reduce gas (consumption). There was no immediate resolution for this, it is a slow process that needs every human coordination."

"I was also able to bring the three 3Cs of UST to Bangkok. The practice of being committed to the task we were given during the meeting sessions, compassion for my fellow delegates, and then competence in what we did, followed. It was also very timely since I am taking Environmental Engineering course this semester and the topics were mostly the systems that need to change in order to prevent pollution," she added.

Maqui ended by saying that "Change should start within ourselves. If we want to help mother earth then we should start evaluating first ourselves before others. A little deed can make a great impact."

The participants learned hard skills like debating, speech making, and writing, and also how to persuade others. Every student should have the chance to push their own boundaries in order to progress. According to the AWMUM website, the participants learned the following: to enhance diplomacy skills,



(From left:) Monton, Rogan, and Domingo in Bangkok



Maqui was assigned as the delegate of Cuba, at the AWMUN conference.

to enhance leadership, to improve communication skills, to increase analytical and critical thinking skills, and to expand networking with other delegates.

### Travel Management students create resolutions

In a related development, three students in their fourth-year under the Bachelor of Science in Travel Management program of the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management were chosen as delegates in the same conference, which was organized by International Global Network (IGN). The conference, with 1,326 delegates from around the world, assembled at the Prince Palace Hotel and Windsor Suites Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand. This year's theme was: "The World's Dilemma: Enhancing World Action on Climate Change."

## UST Political Science senior participates in student confab in Bangkok



Left photo: Janyn Mariella Montealegre (third from left) with other delegates

Right photo: Montealegre at the Bangkok International Student Conference 2019

University of Santo Tomas (UST) Political Science student Janyn Montealegre was among the six students from the Philippines who participated in the Bangkok International Student Conference 2019 held from January 21 to 22, 2019 at the Thammasat University under the theme “Redefining Democracy: The New Battleground.”

The Bangkok International Student Conference (BISC) was organized by the Faculty of Political Science of Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand in order to promote a global understanding of national and international issues confronting countries around the world while building intercultural cooperation and friendship.

The BISC is an annual academic conference that aims to provide international students a venue where they can experience more challenging and productive “classroom assignment” by presenting, defending, and discussing their research paper with international peers. It is open to students of any field of study, nationality and age to make the experience diverse.

The whole delegation was subdivided into four groups under the topics: Democracy and Economic Development, Social Media Influences on Electoral Campaign, Democracy and Populism, as well as Voter Education and the Stakes over First Time Voters. Representatives from major political parties in Thailand discussed the role of the youth in upcoming elections, not only in Thailand, but in other Southeast Asian countries as well. Workshops and networking sessions were likewise conducted to enable the delegates to socialize and connect with other youth representatives from the different Asian countries.

Montealegre and other youth delegates from the Philippines discussed national and international issues affecting the status of democracy in the world, toured the Thammasat University, and visited Thailand’s historical spots such as the Wat Pho, the Wat Arun, and the Chao Phraya River.

“I am really grateful for this learning opportunity. I gained a lot of Asian friends and the program expanded my knowledge regarding the issues confronting democratic nations around the world. Alongside, the program also led me to appreciate Thai culture and behavior even more. It [the program] made me realize that Bangkok is not just a hub for tourists but it is also imbued with a rich historical legacy and advocacy for equality,” Montealegre expressed.

### UST STUDENTS TAKE PART IN ASIA WORLD MODEL UNITED FROM PAGE 3

The delegates were assigned to different councils, where they created resolutions for climate change. Josephine Beatrice Domingo was part of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) representing Finland, while Ms. Eunice Marie Monton was designated to the International Labour Organization representing Norway. Finally, Matthew Eli Rogan was assigned to the World Health Organization roster representing Armenia.

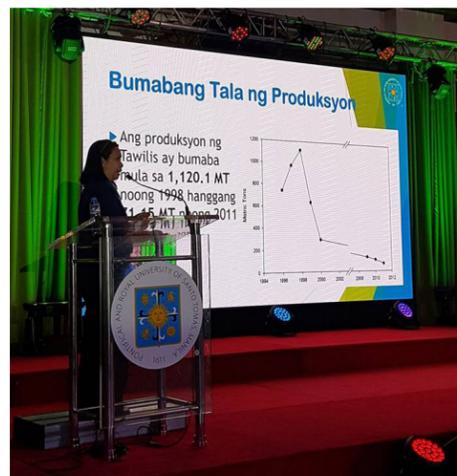
The activities of the three-day event included the opening ceremony, grand symposium, diplomatic dinner, meeting session, cultural performance night, awarding session and a city tour of Bangkok. The aim of the AWMUN II is to engage youth leaders from around the world and provide a platform to share perspectives and opinions on the given theme.

## LECTURES & CONFERENCES

### Experts discuss endangered *tawilis* at UST forum



Dr. Mudjekeewis Santos of the UST Graduate School engages participants of the Tawilis Summit. (Photo courtesy of Philippine Society for Freshwater Science)



Dr. Maria Theresa M. Mutia discusses the dwindling rates of *Tawilis* population growth. (Photo courtesy of Philippine Society for Freshwater Science)



PSFS Vice President and UST Department of Biological Sciences Chair Prof. Rey Donne S. Papa, Ph.D., presents his findings on Lake Taal. (Photo courtesy of Philippine Society for Freshwater Science)

The Tawilis Summit 2019 titled, “4Ts: *Talakayan tungkol sa Tawilis at Taal*” was hosted by the University of Santo Tomas on February 19, 2019 at the Dr. Robert C. Sy Grand Ballroom of the UST Paredes Building.

Spearheaded by the Philippine Society for Freshwater Science (PSFS), the summit was made possible through the cooperation of the University of Santo Tomas Department of Biological Sciences, University of the Philippines – Diliman Institute of Biology, National Fisheries Development and Research Institute, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Region 4A.

According to Tawilis Summit Organizing Committee Chair Prof. Rey Donne S. Papa, Ph.D., who also serves as Vice President of the PSFS and the Chair of the UST Department of Biological Sciences, “This summit aims to share to the general public the most recent scientific information on *Sardinella tawilis* and Lake Taal which led to the declaration of *Sardinella tawilis* as an endangered species according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).”

*Tawilis*, a freshwater sardine found exclusively in the Philippines, is the only known member of the genus *Sardinella* that can exist entirely in fresh water.

Keynote speaker Dr. Mudjekeewis Santos from the UST Graduate School, who is also an Academician of the National Academy of Science and Technology, presented “The IUCN assessment of *Sardinella tawilis* as an endangered species,” of which he is the main author.

Other speakers included: Dr. Maria Theresa M. Mutia, who tackled “*Tawilis* fishery reserves and spawning grounds”; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jonas Quilang, who presented “Phylogeny of *S. tawilis*”; Assoc. Prof. Alicia Ely J. Pagulayan, who discussed “Reproductive biology of *S. tawilis*”; Prof. Rey Donne S. Papa, Ph.D., who talked about “Updates on the limno-ecological studies on Lake Taal”; and Atty. Ipat Luna, who explained “Management and conservation initiatives.”

A round table discussion followed with Prof. Roberto C. Pagulayan, Ph.D., as the rapporteur. Discussants were: Asst. Prof. Dr. Francis Magbanua, Prof. Emeritus Dr. Macrina Zafaralla, Department of Environment and National Resources - 4A Regional Director Atty. Ma. Paz Luna, and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources - 4A Regional Director Wilfredo Cruz.

The whole-day event culminated with the reading of the PSFS Declaration, which summarized the key points of discussion from the various stakeholders and participants. From this summary, PSFS will come up with its official stand on the declaration of *Sardinella tawilis* as an endangered species, which will be submitted to the appropriate government agencies for their perusal.

## Reyes, Fajilan talk of blended online instruction, documenting ethnolinguistic groups at AUDRN conference



UST Filipino Department Chair Mr. Alvin Ringgo C. Reyes presents his study.

UST Filipino Department Chair Mr. Alvin Ringgo C. Reyes, and Filipino Dept. faculty member Asst. Prof. Wennielyn Fajilan, Ph.D., presented research papers during the 2019 Asian University Digital Resource Network (AUDRN) Local Knowledge National Conference with the theme, "Local Knowledge across Generations: Towards the 4th Industrial Revolution." Held from February 8 to 9, 2019 at the Silliman University, Dumaguete City, the conference was a gathering of local knowledge researchers, partners, advocates, champions, and digital technology researchers, strategists, planners, and developers. It was aimed at providing a unique forum to discuss the integration of local knowledge in higher education using information and communication technology (ICT). Moreover, the conference was a venue for AUDRN partners to share their research studies on the integration of local knowledge in the curriculum including Whole-Person Education. The University of Santo Tomas is an active partner of the AUDRN.

Reyes presented his study titled "Mandated Blended Online Instruction: A Case Study on the Affordances and Challenges of GenEd Filipino E-Learning Adoption at the University of Santo Tomas."

In his paper, Reyes presented how the new General Education Filipino 1 course offered by UST, titled *Kontekstuwalisadong Komunikasyon sa Filipino* (Contextualized Communication in Filipino), serves as a space for the discussion of local knowledge.

He also talked about how such subject matter was delivered through the blended learning approach where the first meeting serves as a face-to-face encounter with students while the second one, through online instruction. He also presented the challenges and solutions taken regarding the implementation of the blended online learning in terms of curriculum, human resources, and facilities.

According to Reyes, "there must be a dedicated course in the undergraduate curriculum for the teaching of local knowledge. Filipino is the best course to handle this as language is the repository of one's culture. Mandating online instruction is more effective in ensuring active implementation of Information and Communications Technology (ICT)-based instruction compared to making it optional. However, face-to-face and online instructions must not be dichotomized; teaching in the cloud campus and in the physical classroom are one and integrated. ICT is a powerful tool that may be utilized for the understanding, discourse, codification, and dissemination of local knowledge in different fields. Teachers must be challenged to aspire for higher levels of technology use, such as modification and redefinition."

Meanwhile, Fajilan presented her paper titled "Defining and Redefining the Local: A Preliminary Analysis of Representations of Asi Culture in Community-based Websites."

Fajilan's paper stated that, "In a

multicultural and multilingual community like the Philippines, local knowledge pertains to multiple knowledges embedded in the cultures of more than a hundred ethnolinguistic group. However, majority of these ethnolinguistic groups' culture are undocumented and lack representation in national affairs."

To combat this problem, Fajilan pointed out that "the emergence of web publishing in the last two decades has paved the way for new ways of representing local knowledge as evidenced by Romblomanons."

According to Fajilan, "By publishing independent websites, local communities like the Asi of Romblon created their own space to represent their own culture. In doing so, an alternative source of local knowledge became available for a community that was neglected in traditional cultural sources like the academe and print media."

The study illustrated how these alternative sources map local knowledge systems so that these sources may be best utilized for a critical integration of ICT in learning about and empowering indigenous communities. One of the websites that served as primary basis of her data is <http://simara.com> of the Simaranhon Tribe of Romblon.

Joining Reyes and Fajilan was UST Educational Technology Center Director Asst. Prof. Anna Cherylle M. Ramos, who represented UST in the AUDRN Institutional Partners' Meeting with School Presidents.



Asst. Prof. Wennielyn Fajilan, Ph.D., at the 2019 Asian University Digital Resource Network conference

## UST Pharmacy, University of Illinois at Chicago conduct Clinical Preceptor Training in UST



Prof. Alan Lau, Pharm.D., (seated, third from left), Asst. Prof. Jennifer Pham, Pharm.D., (seated, fifth from left), Asst. Prof. Christina Haaf, Pharm.D., (seated, sixth from left), with UST Faculty of Pharmacy Dean Prof. Aleth Therese Dacanay, Ph.D., (seated, fourth from left), and participants of the training program

The UST Faculty of Pharmacy offered a Clinical Preceptor Training Program titled "Becoming an Effective Clinical Faculty/Preceptor" in collaboration with the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) from January 9 to 10, 2019 at the Faculty of Pharmacy, UST Main Building in España, Manila. The international speakers were: Asst. Prof. Christina Haaf, Pharm.D., a Clinical Pharmacist specializing in Oncology; Asst. Prof. Jennifer Pham, Pharm.D., a Clinical Pharmacist whose specialization is in Neonatal/Pediatrics and Prof. Alan Lau, Pharm.D., the director of International Clinical Pharmacy Education in UIC.

The training was attended by 95 participants composed of invited clinical preceptors from various partner institutions and practice sites of the Faculty of Pharmacy such as Mercury Drug Corp., Watsons Healthcare Company, partner hospitals like Makati Medical Center, St. Luke's Hospital Quezon City and St. Luke's Hospital Bonifacio Global City, Delos Santos Hospital, as well as faculty members who teach clinical pharmacy courses.

The training program was geared toward the development of the essential teaching skills and attributes of an effective clinical pharmacy educator in practice sites.

## Lontoc of Arts and Letters presents paper on Transformative Educational Research at int'l confab in Nepal



Asst. Prof. Gina Lontoc, Ph.D., presents her research.

Faculty of Arts and Letters faculty member Asst. Prof. Gina Lontoc, Ph.D., of the Department of English and Language Studies presented her research, "Discourses and identities in formal schooling of sea nomads in Philippine urban settings: Exploring

the Self using photo narratives" at the Kathmandu University in Dhulikhel, Nepal during the recently concluded Second International Conference on Transformative Educational Research and Sustainable Development (TERSD). The Kathmandu University School of Education in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair in Adult Literacy based in the School of Education

LONTOC OF ARTS AND LETTERS TO PAGE 8

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## UST joins ABS-CBN BMPM 'Share Your Love' one peso challenge for Tahanang Walang Hagdan



ABS-CBN BMPM Head Ms. Rowena Paraaan orients participants about the challenge.



ABS-CBN BMPM Head Ms. Rowena Paraaan (standing, fifth from left) with UST Office of Public Affairs Director Assoc. Prof. Giovanna V. Fontanilla, Ph.D., (standing, fourth from left), UST Education High School Principal Asst. Prof. Leonila Wilhelmina N. Baltazar (standing, sixth from left), Assistant to the Director for Public Affairs Ms. Katherine Patrice B. Sibug (standing, third from left), the Office of Public Affairs Team, and student participants

The University of Santo Tomas, through the Office of Public Affairs, in partnership with ABS-CBN Bayan Mo I-Patrol Mo (BMPM), hosted the turnover ceremony for Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles, which were used by Thomasian students, faculty, and support staff to participate in the "Share Your Love" One Peso Challenge. The ceremony was held on February 14, 2019 at the UST Miguel de Benavides Building.

The One Peso Challenge involves filling up the PET bottle with one peso coins to gather funds that will be used to assist in providing shelter, medical assistance, education, mobility aid, and other welfare services for people from Tahanang Walang Hagdan (TWH). The bottles entrusted to UST were collected by ABS-CBN BMPM one week after the program launch.

At the program launch, UST Office of Public Affairs Director Assoc. Prof. Giovanna V. Fontanilla, Ph.D., gave the welcome remarks and ABS-CBN BMPM Head Ms. Rowena Paraaan delivered an overview of the "Share Your Love" Project.

UST Education High School Principal Asst. Prof. Leonila Wilhelmina N. Baltazar, and the Student Councils of the UST Junior High School and the UST Senior High School attended the turnover ceremony to represent their schools.

Through the 10th anniversary campaign project "Bike @10" of BMPM in 2017, the collection of the PET bottles began for the benefit of persons with disability from TWH.

### LONTOC OF ARTS AND LETTERS FROM PAGE 7

for Lifelong Learning of the University of East Anglia, Norwich, United Kingdom organized the conference.

With the theme, "Context-Responsive Wisdom and Knowledge for Sustainable Futures," the conference brought together scholars, researchers, and practitioners providing them with opportunities to share their perspectives on local wisdom and knowledge in education. The conference also aimed to create collaboration among educators, community developers, leaders and researchers across the globe to work toward strengthening social justice and eco-responsive sustainable approaches in education and educational leadership.

Drawing from the work of Paulo Freire on progressive education combined with participatory research methodology, Lontoc's study engaged the Bajau participants in critical reflection of their situation and in discussions of ways on how they address the issues

in their community. Through photo narratives, members of the focus group were given the opportunity to act as agents of social change by communicating their views on the issues affecting their communities. By using these photos, along with the stories behind these images, participants reflected on social issues such as human rights, with particular emphasis on education, migration, capacity-building, and community participation. The study also provided new perspectives on debates in internal displacement and indigenous peoples' education.

The paper presentation was funded by the University of Santo Tomas under the Research Center for Social Sciences and Education (RCSSed). Along with other representatives from partner universities of the UEA-UNESCO Chair Programme, including the UNESCO chair herself, Prof. Anna Robinson-Pant, Lontoc presented the findings of her research which explored how Bajau youth understand and communicate their sociocultural identities within the context of formal education.

There were more than 200 abstracts submitted for the conference which includes presentation formats such as oral presentations, posters, and workshop sessions.

# ARTS & CULTURE

## Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo delivers 2019 Adrian Cristóbal Lecture



Professor Emerita Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, Ph.D., delivers the lecture.



The lecturer Professor Emerita Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, Ph.D., (fourth from left) receives a certificate of appreciation from Celina Cristóbal, daughter of Adrian Cristóbal, (in red). With them are (from left:) members of the Cristóbal family, the UMPIL Chair Prof. Michael M. Coroza, Ph.D., and UMPIL Secretary General Prof. John Remil Teodoro, Ph.D.

Renowned writer and educator Professor Emerita Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, Ph.D., delivered the 2019 Adrian Cristóbal Lecture, on February 20, 2019 at the Tanghalang Teresita Quirino, UST Graduate School, Manila.

Her lecture was titled "Will There Be Space for the Practice and Study of Literature in the Near Future?" and examined the Literature's current state of being shunted aside in the university curricula.

According to the lecture abstract on *Unyon ng mga Manunulat sa Pilipinas* (UMPIL) or the Writers' Union of the Philippines Facebook page, "Literary Studies are having trouble keeping afloat in some major universities. Literary titles are being edged out of the shelves of the main bookstore chain in the country. Magazines that include stories and essays are now available only online. Commercial publishers are turning down literary titles unless they have a clearly identified market. Even academic publishers are experiencing some problems justifying the publication of literary titles, which are so slow-moving that they clog up storage space. Will there be any space in the near future for the practice and study of literature?"

Hidalgo is the author of several autobiographical travel books, novels, and books of literary criticism focusing on women's literature.

She has also edited literary anthologies, as well as pioneered creative nonfiction in the country. She received her Bachelor's degree in Philosophy (1964), *magna cum laude*, and Master of Arts degree in Literature (1967) *meritissimus* from the University of Santo Tomas. She later received a doctorate in Comparative Literature from the University of the Philippines Diliman in 1993. Currently, she serves as the director of the University of Santo Tomas Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies (UST-CCWLS)

The Adrian Cristóbal Lecture Series was established by the Cristóbal family, in collaboration with the *Unyon ng mga Manunulat sa Pilipinas* (UMPIL) or the Writers' Union of the Philippines. It aims to honor the intellectual legacy of the late fictionist, playwright, essayist, satirist, newspaper columnist, and former UMPIL chair whose name the series carries.

In this annual event, a renowned Filipino intellectual delivers a keynote speech on a topic related to a current socio-political condition in the country or a cultural development. Past lecturers include Gemino Abad (2011), National Artist Virgilio Almario (2012), National Artist Resil Mojares (2013), Reynaldo Ileto (2014), Solita Monsod (2015), Marites Vitug (2016), Alfred Yuson (2017), and Soledad Reyes (2018).

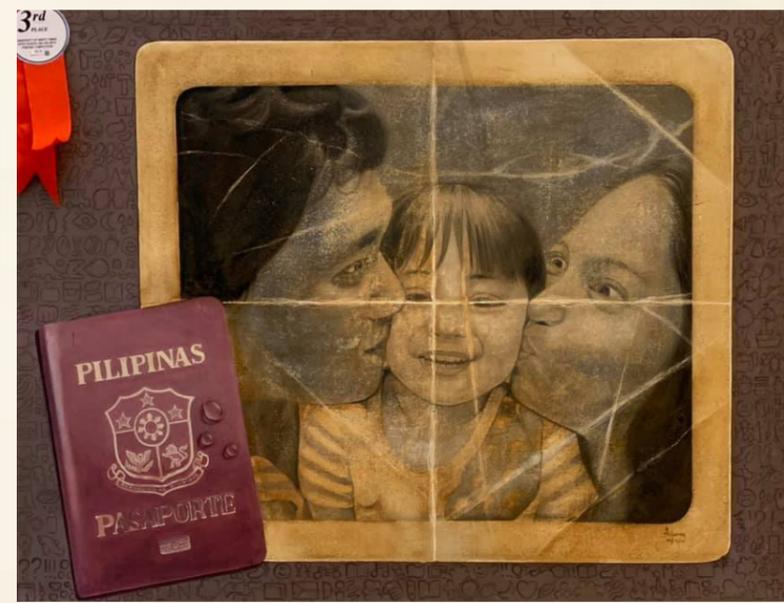
# UST Museum celebrates PH Arts Month with Inter-school On-the-Spot Painting Competition; winners bared



First place: "Kaleidoscope" by Steven John Natal from Bulacan State University



Second place: "(IN) COMPLETE" by Christian M. Casimiro from Far Eastern University



Third place: "Home" by Allan Dale Licaros from Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology



Metrobank Choice Award: "Love Exists" by Christian Jame F. Maglente



First honorable mention: "Tunay na pagmamahal" by Warren L. Tanguilig of EARIST



Second honorable mention: "Sa kabila ng pagsubok" by John Rowell N. Correa of Bulacan State University



Third honorable mention: "Nothing is impossible" by Louis Rafael L. Espinosa of UST

In celebration of the Philippine Arts Month, the UST Museum held the 2019 UST Annual Inter-School On-the-Spot Painting Competition on February 15, 2019 at the UST Benavides Garden.

With the theme "Viewing the Shades of Love," participants were given the opportunity to share their sentiments and ideas about love through visual art.

Colleges and universities in and around Metro Manila were invited to send up to 25 fine arts students each to compete in the oldest student art competition of its kind.

The awarding ceremonies and exhibit opening were held later that same day at 6:00 p.m. at the Main Building Lobby, where the winning works remained on exhibit until February 28, 2019.

Winning first place was "Kaleidoscope" by Steven John Natal from Bulacan State University. Second place was "(IN) COMPLETE" by Christian M. Casimiro from Far Eastern University and third place was "Home" by Allan Dale Licaros from Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology (EARIST). "Love Exists" by Christian Jame F. Maglente, who is also from EARIST, won the Metrobank Choice Award.

The first honorable mention was awarded to "Tunay na pagmamahal" by Warren L. Tanguilig of EARIST, while John Rowell N. Correa of Bulacan State University won the second honorable mention for his work "Sa kabila ng pagsubok." The third honorable

mention was awarded to Louis Rafael L. Espinosa of UST for his painting "Nothing is impossible."

The winners received cash prizes, with gift items and gift certificates. The first prize winner received Php 40,000, the second prize winner took home Php 30,000, while the third prize winner collected Php 20,000.

The contest had its origins in 1941, when the University presented major art events that made a mark in Philippine Art History. Then Rector Magnificus, Rev. Fr. Silvestre Sancho, O.P., sponsored the First National Art Competition, and an exhibition of all 93 participating entries was mounted at the University Gymnasium.

Some of the winners of the competition were eventually included in Prof. Victorio Edades' list of young artists who showed modernist inclinations, known as the "13 Moderns." They were: Vicente Manansala, Ricarte Puruganan, Galo Ocampo, and Arsenio Capili. Edades himself was later declared a National Artist in 1976.

In the years following the contest, the initiative of the First National Art Competition became the UST Annual Inter-School On-the-Spot Painting Competition (OTSPC). This became one of the most anticipated campus activities participated in by Fine Arts Students in Metro Manila and nearby areas. Several student winners of the UST OTSPC are now celebrated names in the contemporary art scene, among them Ronald Ventura, Mark Salvatus, and Raffy Napay.



The award-winning \$1 obverse silver coin (left) and \$5 reverse gold coin (right) designed by Balan for the 100th anniversary of the American Legion.

From: usmint.gov



## Thomsonian alumnus Paul Balan: First Filipino U.S. Mint Coin Designer

Paul Balan is steeped in the arts, having been born in Paete, Laguna, a town known for its sculptors, painters, musicians and poets, and being a descendant of Pablo Bague, one of Paete's master sculptors. Thus, it would not be surprising if as a child he already manifested his artistic giftedness. This even brought him to the College of Fine Arts and Design of the University of Santo Tomas where he enrolled in Fine Arts.

As a student, he was a constant participant and winner of various art competitions, such as the prestigious Metrobank's Young Painters' Annual Exhibition and the Art Association of the Philippines National Painting Competition. However, Paul had to leave the University to pursue further his craft.

Chasing after his dream was no easy feat. Under the terrible heat of the sun, he carried his paintings around Manila and went in and out of banks to sell them. To earn money, he focused more on liturgical arts and made paintings, murals, sculptures and stained glass designs for churches across the country. He also went to the Mountain Province to live with the Ifugaos and immersed himself with their culture to complete a project with the Veterans' Museum. His projects kept on coming but he still was not able to live a comfortable life.

In 2002, Paul married his high school sweetheart and migrated to Chicago, USA with just \$5 in his pocket. He worked as a waiter, forklift operator, and mailman to provide for his family. Even if he was busy providing for his family, Paul found time to paint. After work, he would go to a park and stay for hours to paint. After four years of juggling his work, family, and passion, he was

able to finish his 18 x 24 feet painting where he interpreted the Philippine National Anthem. This paved the way for a more colourful life as his art pieces made waves across the U.S. He was supported by the Philippine Historical Society in the U.S. and his painting was featured in places like the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C., and Consulate General of the Philippines in Chicago.

His stint as an artist continued as Paul was encouraged by his wife to join the Artistic Infusion Program of the U.S. Mint in 2008, an exclusive artistic pool that consisted of designers, engravers, sculptors, painters and other visual artists who were contracted to create and submit coin and medal designs for the Mint. Paul was given a spot in the program although at the onset, he did not expect to be chosen because he knew that this was not his line of work. To prepare for this challenge, he went all over the States to immerse himself with the place and the culture and drew as much designs as he could.

Every year, the Mint would open numerous projects for artists like Paul. Coin and medal designs of the artists would undergo rigorous screening and evaluation before being chosen. Most of the time, Paul's work would be included in the shortlists like his PACEM design in the Japanese Mint's International Coin Design Competition in 2012. By the year 2013, his Statue of Liberty award-winning design for the National Humanities Medal was recognized and unveiled by the former President Barack Obama in an annual White House ceremony. In 2015, he was recognized for his obverse and reverse designs for the Code Talkers Recognition Congressional Medals Programs, for his gold reverse design in the U.S. Marshals Service 225th Anniversary

Commemorative Coin Program, and for his silver obverse design in the March of Dimes Silver Dollar Commemorative Coin. In 2016, Paul was acknowledged for his reverse coin design in the American Eagle Platinum Proof Coin Program. His reverse coin design for America the Beautiful Quarters Program was also given recognition in 2018. This year, 2019, his designs for the \$5 reverse gold coin and \$1 obverse silver coin were chosen for commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the American Legion. The said one dollar and five dollar coins are in active circulation this year.

When not drawing designs for coins, Paul paints and sculpts in his free time. Over the years, he has created 30 paintings and four bronze sculptures that were showcased in an exhibition held in December 2018 at the RE Vision Art Gallery in Wisconsin, USA.

Paul is living the dream he pursued for almost three decades. The young man who left the University some 28 years ago, still has vivid memories of valuable life lessons he learned from the institution.

"Yung determinasyon, 'yung mga natutunan ko sa mga propesor ko, 'yung pagiging matiyaga at pagiging dedikado sa aming trabaho... Natutunan ko lahat sa UST," (The determination, the teachings of my professors, and the perseverance... I've learned it all from UST,) says Paul.

Paul is currently working on some designs for the US Mint and is collaborating with a writer for the book of his Philippine National Anthem painting. He is also working with the Office of Alumni Relations for the new design of the Thomasian Alumni Jubilarian medals that would be unveiled later this year.

## UNIVERSITY VISITOR

Embassy of the United States of America in the Philippines  
Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer



Embassy of the United States of America in the Philippines Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer Ms. Jeanie M. Duwan (right) receives the "Pope Francis @ UST" coffee table book during her visit to the University of Santo Tomas. She was welcomed by UST Office of Public Affairs Director Assoc. Prof. Giovanna V. Fontanilla, Ph.D.

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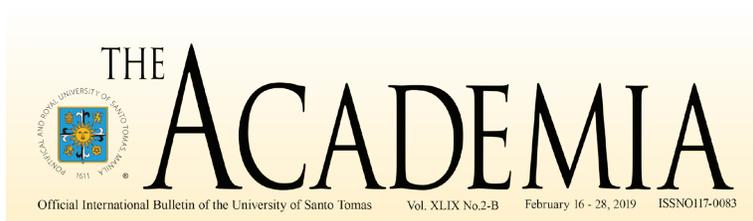


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