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Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P. is UST's 97th Rector

Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P. was recently appointed as the 97th Rector of the Pontifical and Royal University of Santo Tomas, the Catholic University of the Philippines and considered the oldest University in Asia.

The Prefect of the *Congregatio de Institutione Catholica (Studiorum Institutis)* [The Congregation for Catholic Education (Institutes of Study)] His Eminence Giuseppe Cardinal Versaldi signed a *rescripto* or papal rescript agreeing with Fr. Ang's nomination by the Master of the Order of Preachers and UST Chancellor Very Rev. Fr. Gerard Francisco P. Timoner, III, O.P. Upon this notice, Very Rev. Fr. Timoner confirmed Fr. Ang's appointment as Rector of UST on May 7, 2020.

The Congregation for Catholic Education (Institutes of Study) is the pontifical congregation of the Roman Curia responsible for higher education institutes that depend on ecclesiastical authorities. As a pontifical university, UST also falls under its purview.

Now the eighth Filipino Rector of UST, Fr. Ang served as UST Vice Rector from 2012 until January 2020 and Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy. He was formally named Acting Rector by his predecessor, the Very Rev. Fr. Herminio V. Dagohoy, O.P.

Fr. Ang spent his academic life at the University of Santo Tomas. He was always a brilliant student. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy degree, *cum Laude*, from the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters in 1990. He has a Licentiate in Philosophy degree, graduating *Magna cum Laude* from the UST Faculty of Philosophy in 1994. He obtained his Bachelor's degree in Sacred Theology, *Summa cum Laude*, from the UST Faculty of Sacred Theology in 1997, and his Licentiate in Sacred Theology and Master of Arts in Religious Studies degrees, *Magna cum Laude*, from the UST Ecclesiastical Faculties in 1999. In 2010, Fr. Ang obtained his Doctor of Philosophy degree, *Summa cum Laude*, from the UST Faculty of Philosophy.

In his capacity as Vice Rector of the University for eight years, Fr. Ang was also chairman of various University committees that include the Manpower, Scholarship, and Retirement Board Committees. He was also a member of the Economic Council, Council of Regents, and the Academic Senate. Even before he was named Vice Rector, he occupied various positions in the University such as Director of the Purchasing Office from 2010 to 2012, Faculty Secretary of the Ecclesiastical Faculties from 2006 to 2008 and Spiritual Director of the UST Central Seminary from 2005 to 2007, among others.

UST'S 97TH RECTOR TO PAGE 2



Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., UST's 97th Rector

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DOST names UST Vice Rector for Research and Innovation Nonato as NAST Academician

University of Santo Tomas Vice Rector for Research and Innovation Prof. Maribel G. Nonato, Ph.D., was recognized as an Academician of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) under the Department of Science and Technology. She now joins a league of resident Filipino scientists who have made exemplary contributions to science and technology and have advanced its cause in the Philippines.

According to the NAST website, to be recognized as a member of the Academy, titled an Academician, one must be elected. In this case, Nonato was nominated by National Scientist Dr. Lourdes J. Cruz of the University of the Philippines – Diliman.

Earning the moniker “Queen of Pandans” among fellow scientists for her pioneering research on Philippine-grown *Pandanus amaryllifolius*, Nonato paved the way for other studies on Pandans in Southeast Asia.

Pandanus has around 700 species. Fifty-two are found in the Philippines, of which 43 are endemic. It is used as traditional medicines in Southeast Asia, Papua New Guinea, and India.

The studies on the leaves and roots of *P. amaryllifolius* afforded novel alkaloid structures found only in *Pandanus*. These alkaloids have characteristic feature associated with anti-cholesterol and anti-inflammatory activities. Nonato’s research studies on novel *Pandanus* alkaloids were recognized as significant contribution to the chemistry of alkaloids and merited inclusion in the book series “Alkaloids: Chemistry and Biology”. To this day, the UST *Pandanus* drug discovery and development program continues to explore alkaloids and other biologically important metabolites from endemic and indigenous *Pandanus* species.

Nonato, who obtained both her Bachelor and Master of Science degrees

NAST ACADEMICIAN TO PAGE 3



UST Vice Rector for Research and Innovation and newest Academician of NAST Prof. Maribel G. Nonato, Ph.D.
(Photo courtesy of Fotomasino)

UST’S 97TH RECTOR FROM PAGE 1

The new Rector is a writer and editor. He has contributed articles to various journals particularly in Oriental Philosophy and Rational Psychology, his areas of specialization. These include “The Confucian Li” in *Colloquia Manila*, “On Conceiving Ren Towards Birthing RuJin” in *Philippiniana Sacra* among others. He has been involved with various publications as consultant, academic adviser and review editor.

In 2018, Fr. Ang’s book, “Between the Confucian Li and Ren: a Philosophical Hermeneutics,” was launched by the UST Publishing House.

In a letter to the Thomasian community on May 26, 2020, Fr. Ang set the direction, “Together, let us adapt to our new academic environment not only with our usual adherence to excellence, but with our renewed sense of competence, commitment and compassion. As a community, we shall overcome. Always, with God’s unending grace.”

Vice Rector for Academic Affairs details plans on continuation of learning, emphasizes prioritization of health, safety of students



Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Dr. Cheryl R. Peralta

Sharing some of the University’s practices, Peralta said, “We deployed an internet connectivity tracker for faculty and students to identify their potential concerns. With that information, our academic units were able to render the detailed monitoring, so later on they can be assisted, once the students return to campus.”

“We really have to accept that [a shift to online learning] is the new normal,” remarked Peralta, adding that “Even if the ECQ is lifted as planned, the main concern will always be the health and safety of our people. It’s not just teaching and learning that will change, I think even our processes, our other services will change in consideration of putting in place preventive practices to avoid the spread of infection.”

Admitting that continuous evaluation of implementation was necessary, Peralta said that communication among all stakeholders is important and that they are open to improving the set-up as necessary.

“We are in constant communication with our student leaders, the various presidents of the student councils of the different academic units... We are committed to exploring ways to help our students and our faculty,” she emphasized.

Rising to the Challenge

The University already has its established online modes of learning access, however, managing the adjustment of a large University is not easy.

Peralta shared, “It’s quite a challenge to take care of the needs of 40,000 students, over 2,000 faculty members, and more than 500 support staff. We had to take into consideration the differences in the government regulations for each of our programs and we had to draft the policies in a way that will capture everyone and yet allow everyone some time and space to navigate that, to implement it at their level.”

Preparedness is the key, said Peralta, adding that, “We’ve been monitoring the COVID situation since it came [to the Philippines] in late January. We were

able to anticipate that there could be suspension of classes. As of March 9, we deployed the continuity plan for teaching and learning, just to make sure that once there is suspension of classes, everyone knows what will be done [as regards to classes]. Later that same afternoon, Mayor Domagoso suspended classes for a week.”

Regular delivery of instruction through the BlackBoard learning management system also referred to in UST as Cloud Campus was implemented on April 14, 2020, at the end of the government’s initially announced period of community

VICE RECTOR FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS TO PAGE 7

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from the University of Santo Tomas, was a recipient of the 2017 Philippine Federation of Chemistry Societies - Shimadzu Achievement Award in Chemical Research, the 2016 Philippine Association for the Advancement of Science and Technology (PhilAAST) Gregorio Y. Zara Achievement Award for Basic Research, and the 2006 National Research Council of the Philippines Achievement Award in Chemical Sciences.

In 1993, Nonato received the degree Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry from the University of Wollongong in Australia. She is the past President of the Philippine Federation of Chemistry Societies, Inc. (PFCS) and the Organic Chemistry Teachers Association. Currently, she serves as President of the Natural Products Society of the Philippines.

The Queen of Pandans now joins fellow NAST Academician and UST Professor Emeritus Fortunato B. Sevilla, III, Ph.D. Both are also former deans of the UST College of Science.

UST Bar Topnotcher turns struggles into success



Atty. Kenneth Glenn L. Manuel, JD

Atty. Kenneth Glenn L. Manuel, J.D., a graduate of the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Faculty of Civil Law, placed sixth in the 2019 Bar Examinations with a passing rate of 88.1730 percent. He was one of the 2,103 successful Bar examinees who have made it from among the 7,685 aspiring lawyers who took the tests in November. He leads the batch of new 88 Thomasian lawyers.

Already a Certified Public Accountant, Manuel went on to fulfill another dream: to become a lawyer. However, this did not come easy for him; he had to struggle between the demands of Law school and a full-time teaching job, and reviewer in a review center for aspiring Accountants.

Manuel described the four years that he spent at the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Civil Law as tough and a steep uphill climb, but one that he chose to hurdle. As he described his life, it was not a balancing act of teaching and studying, but it was a matter of 'surviving each day that lasted for four years.'

While teaching full-time at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran, a Dominican-run educational institution in Intramuros where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Accountancy, graduating *Magna cum Laude* in 2014, he took a regular load as a Law student in UST in 2015. His usual schedule included preparing for his classes or checking examination papers, and

rushing to get to UST in the midst of a heavy traffic flow from Lawton to España for his classes at the Faculty of Civil Law. He admitted to not always having been able to read enough for his Law classes but he would always make up for them in his examinations. His 'struggles to survive everyday' paid off when he landed in the Dean's List and eventually graduated *cum Laude* from the Juris Doctor program in 2019.

As if his workload and academic life were not yet enough, Manuel was a member of the UST Civil Law Debate and Moot Society as well as a volunteer for the UST Civil Law Student Council.

Entering into the stressful period of the Bar Examinations in November in 2019, Manuel never gave up his teaching job. He said that resigning from work would give him a lot of time to review, but would leave him "hungry and homeless."

For those who know Manuel, his life as a working student and a regular law student is an inspiration for perseverance. Manuel, who is now a Legal Assistant at DivinaLaw, says that his life was not an easy feat, but he never opted to quit. He looks at his achievements as motivation for other working students who lead lives of double burdens: "We turn our struggles into success; we make our hurdles our opportunities."

In a Facebook post, Manuel emphasized that what motivated him in spite of the difficult road were "the moments of victory."

"I met some of the most wonderful people in law school. I became a student of inspiring professors, some of whom I will admire for the rest of my life."

The night before the results were released, the new lawyer shared in a Twitter post that his faith in God kept him strong: "At midnight today, I held on to the rosaries ...I have received, and sang along to my Bar theme song: Today My Life Begins by Bruno Mars. 'A whole new world is waiting / it's mine for the taking / I know I can make it / Today my life begins.'" He added that he slept with his UST Law shirt on and took a brief social media break due to the anxiety of waiting.

Manuel also shared words of inspiration to law students who may be doubting themselves, writing in the aforementioned Facebook post that "The way up may not be the gentle slope that we have imagined it to be; it is a steep uphill climb along rugged terrain. But when we reach the peak, the view is breathtaking."

Atty. Kenneth Glenn L. Manuel now joins the ranks of the notable alumni of the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Civil Law, that include four Presidents of the Republic of the Philippines and Chief Justices of the Supreme Court, including the current Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta.

Prominent Thomasian topnotchers that ranked first place include former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Roberto Concepcion (1924), former Senator Jose W. Diokno (1944), former Philippine President Diosdado Macapagal (1936) and Arlene Maneja (2002).

Two of the topnotchers in the 2019 Bar Exams were graduates of UST-Legazpi, formerly Aquinas University in Bicol. Ranking first in the Bar Exams was Mae Diane M. Azores who got a 91.0490 percent passing rate. Placing third was Myra M. Baranda who obtained a 88.8250 percent passing rate. Both are Certified Public Accountants.

The former Aquinas University of Legazpi is the Dominican University in Bicol. The move to rename it was based on a resolution from the 2012 Provincial Chapter of the Dominican Province of the Philippines, which mandated that a University of Santo Tomas system be formed.

There has been a close collaboration between these two universities, UST-Manila and UST-Legazpi even before the integration of the former Aquinas University into the UST system. UST-Manila has been supervising some of the former Aquinas University Master's programs, including Pharmacy and Law. This educational endeavor will eventually lead to more programs of the UST-Legazpi being supervised by UST-Manila.

Thomasians produce, distribute PPEs, test booths to medical frontliners



UST Faculty of Engineering Dean Prof. Philipina Marcelo, Ph.D., with the donated 3d printers from Television and Production Exponents Inc. (TAPE Inc.), the company that produces Eat Bulaga (photo courtesy of University of Santo Tomas Facebook page)

Multi-sectoral support from Thomasians in different disciplines contribute in the fight against COVID-19. Among these efforts include varied initiatives to produce and distribute Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and test booths for the use of frontliners.

With the primary goal of protecting the frontliners from being exposed to the coronavirus, and to address the problem of shortage in personal protective equipment, the UST Faculty of Engineering produced face shields by using 3D printers to print visors to which they attach acetate sheets. Volunteer faculty members take turns in manning the printers, two of which were donated by the Department of Science and Technology and three were donated recently by Eat Bulaga. Donations from the Thomasian community and the UST Alumni

Association support the project.

Designer to the stars and celebrities Michael Leyva, a graduate of the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management, designed and produced personal protective equipment (PPE) for the frontliners. The said PPE was created according to the Department of Health requirements. He turned his atelier into a production house to prepare hazmat suits, head covers and washable face masks. In partnership with actress and philanthropist Angel Locsin, Leyva has distributed the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) sets to eight hospitals that include the Philippine General Hospital and the Philippine Lung Center, and facilities in Antipolo City.

Marvin Orias, another designer to the stars used his talent and creativity to design and produce washable PPEs in

pastel colors of pink, blue and green, using liquid-resistant textile. Orias, a graduate of Industrial Engineering from the University of Santo Tomas and the UST High School, explained that aside from helping protect frontliners with his PPEs, he would also want to bring a spirit of happiness with his 'bunny suits.'

Melvin Dave Jordan, a 2nd-year BSBA-Marketing Management student of the College of Commerce, donated 96 hazmat suits to medical frontliners in different parts of Luzon. Initial beneficiaries included the Bulacan Medical Center (Bulacan), VT Maternity Hospital (Marikina), Bauan Doctors General Hospital (Batangas), Mary Johnston Hospital, Inc. (Tondo), and Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center (Manila).

THOMASIAN PRODUCE, DISTRIBUTE PPEs TO PAGE 6

THOMASIAN PRODUCE, DISTRIBUTE PPEs FROM PAGE 5

The UST College of Nursing donated personal protective equipment, vitamins and food items to various groups that included hospitals, health centers, frontliners and others.

The Becarios de Santo Tomas, an organization of UST scholars, organized a donation drive that enabled them to give PPEs to the Lung Center of the Philippines, the Philippine General Hospital and the UST Hospital.

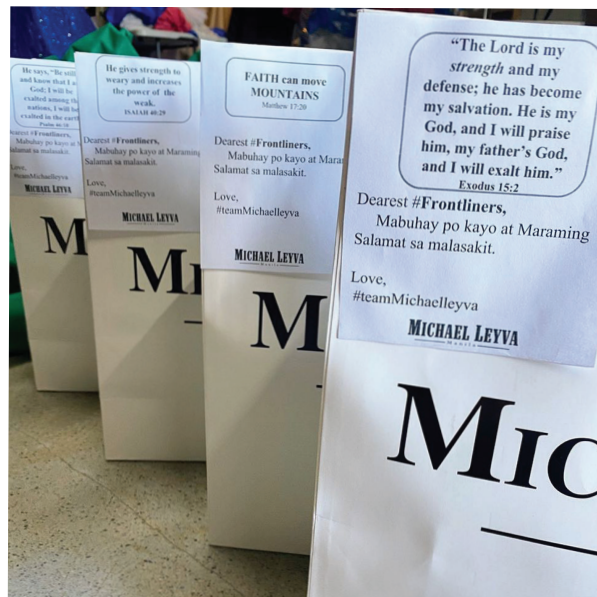
The UST Thomasian Alumni Leaders Association (TALA) in cooperation with the Quezon City Lions Club donated five COVID Test Booths to the health departments of Caloocan, Navotas and Valenzuela. These test booths equip the local health teams to increase their testing capabilities in a day, in accordance with the standards set by the Department of Health

Another batch of graduates from the UST College of Architecture, Batch 1985, donated aerosol boxes and N95 masks to hospitals. Aerosol boxes can help confine the virus within the boxes, thus contain its spread when anesthesiologists and other physicians intubate their patients.

Meanwhile, an alumnus of the UST Central Seminary, Fr. John Mi Shen, donated face masks from China and 30 tons of locally purchased rice to be given to the residents of Payatas, and Fairview. The donations were from the listeners in China of Radio Veritas Asia. Prior to this donation, the media outfit also donated 1,500 pieces of face masks to the UST Hospital.



Hazmat suits donated by UST College of Commerce and Business Administration student Melvin Dave Jordan (photo courtesy of University of Santo Tomas Facebook page)



PPEs from Thomasian designer Leyva each has an inspirational Bible passage on its packaging (photo courtesy of Rey Michael Leyva's Facebook page).



Test booths donated by UST TALA (photo courtesy of the Valenzuela City Facebook page)

Eng'g mentor invents robot LISA to assist doctors with remote patient access

University of Santo Tomas (UST) Faculty of Engineering mentor Engr. Anthony James Bautista, Ph.D., in consultation with Thomasian cardiologist Dr. Rodrigo C. Santos of the Pasig Doctors Medical Center, made a robot that allows communication between the healthcare staff and the hospital patient to minimize the exposure of the healthcare practitioner to the Coronavirus.

The robot, a manual Logistic Indoor Service Assistant (LISA), is a telepresence robot equipped with a smart tablet mounted on a mobile base that can be controlled remotely from five to ten meters away. Communication is done via internet-based platforms such as Skype, Viber or Facetime. It also has a compartment box that allows delivery of medicines to conscious and stable patients.

Bautista is a faculty researcher of the Research for Natural and Applied Sciences at the University of Santo Tomas. He started Project LISA on April 1 upon the request of Dr. Rodrigo Santos.

LISA went on a successful test run on April 9, at the UST Hospital where it will be eventually used. Bautista, who teaches at the Mechanical Engineering Department, estimated that production cost is at PhP 12,000 pesos.



Engr. Anthony James C. Bautista, Ph.D. (photo courtesy of the Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers)

Mobile Base

The initial model of the manual Logistic Indoor Service Assistant (LISA) (photo courtesy of Team USTH)



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quarantine, and is set to continue until the end of the academic year on May 30, 2020. Online resources from the Miguel de Benavides Library remain available for the Thomasian community.

"We've been with BlackBoard for 17 years already. Similar to other schools, we have a lot of programs with laboratory courses, and that is the most challenging to shift [from blended learning, a mix of face-to-face sessions and digital classes] to purely online," she said.

In response to connectivity concerns, Peralta said they are open to revising the plan. She shared that "[After the first week of implementation], connectivity became more of a problem for our students and some faculty members, too. That's when we started to revise the continuity plan, I think we have revised it four times by now."

"In consideration of the various possible situations that our students and faculty members might be in because of this crisis, similar to the other schools, no one will get failing marks this term," reassured Peralta.

On May 4, 2020, it was announced by the Office of the Vice Rector for Finance led by Rev. Fr. Rolando F. Castro, O.P., that unused fees for AY 2019 to 2020, such as those for retreats or field trips, will be fully refunded. Other fees may be refunded to up to 50 percent. Students with remaining fees due in the second term of the A.Y. 2019-2020 will still be allowed to enroll for the next academic year. Staggered payments for unsettled balances will be allowed until December 2020.

While the University is committed to ending the term on May 30, faculty

members will keep a maximum of three gradable assessments per course for the remaining school days. Peralta shared, "What is clear for us is that we would like students — who are not ill, and whose current situation allows them to complete requirements this term — to complete this semester. Graduating students particularly, if they want to take the licensure examination, they may want to really complete all their courses to qualify for the licensure exam. Surveys have shown that some students' family income has decreased during this crisis, so [if they want to lessen financial burden by not retaking classes or by graduating early], we want to grant them that opportunity. For bridging, audit classes may be offered after quarantine regulations allow."

Pineda-Cortel of UST is PH finalist in ASEAN-US Science Prize for Women



Pineda-Cortel at the 2nd ASEAN Science Diplomats Assembly in 2018

University of Santo Tomas Department of Medical Technology faculty member Assoc. Prof. Maria Ruth B. Pineda-Cortel, Ph.D., is a finalist representing the Philippines in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) - United States Science Prize for Women 2020. With over 250 applicants, the competition will provide promising ASEAN-based, early- to mid-career female scientists with awards from the ASEAN and US Government for their academic and professional achievements.

Pineda-Cortel, a resident researcher at the UST Research Center for Natural and Applied Sciences, studies non-communicable diseases of women such as Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM). She currently heads the project titled, "Blood and placental gene expression in gestational diabetes mellitus." With the aim of identifying early biomarkers of GDM, this project emphasizes the importance of preventive healthcare to protect both mother and child against various complications of the disease.

"I applied in the ASEAN-US Science Prize for Women to showcase what women can do in the promotion of preventive health care, to inspire and empower women, in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. I dream that someday, preventive healthcare for pregnant women will be at the forefront before complications of the disease can develop," shared Pineda-Cortel in her campaign video as finalist.

Assisting her in the project is her team of students from UST, namely, Gersa Rosales, Sharisse Diaz, Jemima Martinez, Zianella Zamora, and Jaynielle Quiaoit. The project is funded by the Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Health Research and Development.

"As a woman of science, I strongly believe that it is my responsibility to secure women's health," says Pineda Cortel.

In 2018, Pineda-Cortel was also recognized as one of the 20 ASEAN Science Diplomats during the 2nd ASEAN Science Diplomats Assembly. ASEAN Science Diplomats are recognized for exemplifying the values of excellence, scientific innovation, and breakthroughs in the field of environmental research,



Pineda-Cortel (standing, center) in the laboratory with some students, as seen in her finalist video.

and for contributing to the promotion and development of climate change resilient and environment-friendly ASEAN region. She was also an ASEAN – US Science and Technology fellow in 2014 focusing on the field of health. In that same year, she received the Crisanto Almario Research Award in 2014 by the Philippine Association of Medical Technologists and Public Health, Inc., in recognition of her outstanding research works in the fields of medical technology and diagnosis.

The Sixth Annual ASEAN-U.S. Science Prize for Women 2020 is a joint effort by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and ASEAN.

Pineda-Cortel joins renowned scientists as fellow finalists: Dr. Wida Susanty Haji Suhaili from Brunei Darussalam, Dr. Chanthol Peng from Cambodia, Dr. Nova Riyanti Yusuf from Indonesia, Dr. Phonethipsavanh Nouanthong from the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Dr. Yoke-Fun Chan from Malaysia, Dr. Ther Wint Aung from Myanmar, Dr. Shefaly Shorey from Singapore, Dr. Thanyanan Reungwetwattana, and Dr. Tran Thi Thanh Huyen from Vietnam.

UST Pharmacy alumna is 2019 Asian Scientist 100 for larvicide research of PH medicinal plants



Dr. Rosalinda Torres (Photo courtesy of the Asian Scientist 100 website)

Department of Science and Technology (DOST) - Standards and Testing Division Chief and University of Santo Tomas (UST) Faculty of Pharmacy alumna Rosalinda Torres, Ph.D., made it to the prestigious "Asian Scientist 100" list for 2019.

Torres, who graduated from the UST Biochemistry program in 1978, was recognized for her research on the larvicidal ability of Philippine medicinal plants, which can help decrease the risk of contracting Dengue fever through a natural insecticide specifically against mosquito larvae. For this same research, Torres previously received the 2018 Gregorio Y. Zara Award for Basic Science Research

The Asian Scientist 100, which is now on its fourth edition, acknowledges the achievements of scientists in the continent. According to its website, these scientists must have received a national or

international prize for their research in the previous year. Alternatively, each one must have made a significant scientific discovery or provided leadership in academia or industry.

As part of the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRC) Division X-Chemical Sciences, Torres has filed eight patents and produced a monograph "Screening for Larvicidal Activity of Philippine Medicinal Plants" from her NRC funded research titled "Extraction, Characterization and Bio-assay for Larvicidal and Adulticidal Activity of Some Philippine Medicinal Plants."

Torres is now part of a roster of renowned scientists in Asia. In its 2018 edition, another Thomasian, UST Faculty of Engineering Assistant Dean Ricardo Balog, was named 'Asian Scientist 100.'

The full list can be accessed via: <https://www.asianscientist.com/as100/>

ROBOT LISA FROM PAGE 7

Hospitals from Pasig, Marikina and Rizal are already waiting for their LISA robots. The Department of Science and Technology will assist Bautista in the other robots that he will design for these hospitals. As of April 28, 2020, Pasig Doctors Medical Center has already launched an updated version of LISA in partnership with Macro Technologies Co. Inc.

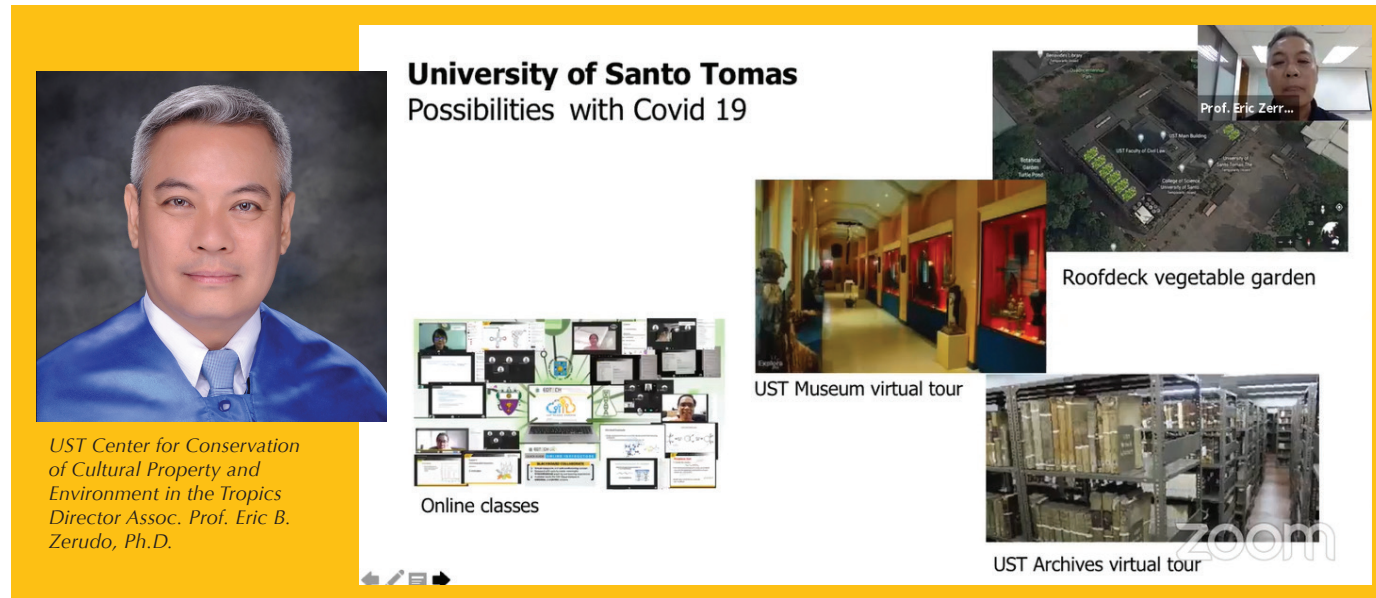
With minimized physical contact, using the robot may aid in the conservation of PPEs.

Before LISA, Bautista developed agricultural robots for rice farmers. He

thought of converting commercially-available hand tractors into autonomous robots to help farmers in their labor-intensive agricultural tasks such as ploughing, tilling and land-leveling. In, 2017, he was a Visiting Researcher at the Harper Adams University in the United Kingdom where he focused on developing driver-less tractors for precision farming. In 2019, he was invited for a short-term research immersion at Toyohashi University of Technology in Japan to work on indoor navigation using Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) and Visual Sensors.

LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

Zerrudo speaks at DOT e-learning series on conservation, use of heritage site amid COVID-19



Zerrudo delivers his lecture via Zoom to participants registered with the DOT

In celebration of the National Heritage Month which is commemorated in May, the UST Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics Director Assoc. Prof. Eric B. Zerrudo, Ph.D. tackled PARAPARAAN: Redefining the Use of Heritage Places for COVID-19 Survival. He delivered a webinar lecture in the Department of Tourism's (DOT) Online Learning Series on May 21, 2020.

The theme for the 2020 National Heritage Month is "Mga Kwentong Pamana" (Stories of Heritage), which highlights the social and cultural impact of sharing knowledge, experiences and stories of Filipino heritage in the preservation of our country's legacies. Zerrudo's lecture was one of many initiatives in the DOT's continuation of learning, and he was previously a speaker on "E-Pamanang Turismo Heritage Development" held on May 19.

Having been a former commissioner of the UNESCO Philippines World Heritage Convention, Zerrudo shared on the topics of heritage and conservation, the redefinition of using heritage sites

during COVID-19, cultural landscapes, and sustainable living heritage.

Defining conservation of heritage as the action taken to sustain the value, meaning, and significance of cultural resources from the past for present use and inspiration of future generations, Zerrudo emphasized that "To make our heritage meaningful, we have to make sure that we are in the equation of making our time in COVID meaningful."

Philippine cultural heritage places can be "functional and useful" during the pandemic, even just in the interim, Zerrudo shared. He gave the example of how, for the first time, the San Agustin Church in Intramuros allowed the *dungaw* (window peek) of the Our Lady of Consolation while priests and the religious observed the image from the floor below, practicing social distancing. Zerrudo also suggested possibilities for the 'new normal' such as providing virtual tours of the San Agustin Museum, and using the Fr. Blanco Vegetable Garden to augment the food security of the seminary.

Acknowledging the current presence of the COVID-19 triage area, the online

Eucharistic Celebrations of the Santisimo Rosario Parish Church (UST Chapel), and the continuation of online classes for UST, Zerrudo suggested the possibilities of virtual tours of the UST Museum and the *Archivo de la Universidad de Santo Tomas* (UST Archives).

In her remarks, Department of Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat expressed that, "While COVID-19 has closed down our heritage sites and put many aspects of our culture on hold... we're keeping our traditions and our stories alive with whatever means we can because this is how we will survive as a people."

Aside from his post at UST, Zerrudo is also the National Coordinator of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines Episcopal Commission for Cultural Heritage of the Church and a Filipino Brand of Service Consultant. He also serves as a Cultural Heritage Resource Person of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts - Philippine Cultural Education Program (NCCA-PCEP)

The webinar was later made publicly available on the DOT Trains Facebook page, which can be found through this link <https://www.facebook.com/159253348077933/videos/281478392887955/>

UST CTHM webinars discuss responses, lessons to disruptions in tourism, hospitality industry

The University of Santo Tomas (UST) College of Tourism and Hospitality Management (CTHM) examined the recovery of the tourism and hospitality industry through online learning sessions. The webinars were the ninth talk in a lecture series titled "Tourism and Hospitality Executive Forum" (ToHEX 9). Over 250 participants joined the sessions held via UST Cloud Campus on May 21, 2020.

With the central theme of "The Disruptions in Tourism and Hospitality Industry: Lessons and Responses from COVID-19 Pandemic," two sessions with three speakers each formed ToHEX 9.

The morning session tackled "Service Quality Operations in Tourism and Hospitality after COVID-19." Speakers from both the academe and practitioners in the industry included former Taylor's University – Malaysia Senior Vice President for International Relations and International Education Consultant Dr. Andy Nazarechuk, Robinsons Land Corporation Summit Hotels and Resort Group General Manager Mr. Jose Mari Delgado Ouano III, and Catch 22 Executive Chef in Dubai Andrew Paderes.

Nazarechuk, in particular, emphasized that hospitality leaders must adapt to the new normal by prioritizing the safety and health of their tourists and customers.

"Customers will stay away from companies that do not make them feel protected or safe... Either [hospitality-related businesses] learn to adjust to the new way [of being more careful about cleanliness and consumer health] or they will fail," he warned.

Nazarechuk, who is a panel auditor for the Tourism and Hospitality Education International Center of Excellence (THE-ICE) advised the CTHM students that "You're also going to want to work for a safe company, so when you join the industry, you will have to critically evaluate



International Education Consultant Dr. Andy Nazarechuk speaks to webinar participants through UST Cloud Campus.

your potential company's approach to [the new normal]."

Ouano echoed the prioritization of safety and highlighted that rebuilding the people's trust and confidence in their hotel's brand is key to helping ease the public's fear of travel while Chef Paderes highlighted the need to intensify training and re-training on food safety.

"Tourism Operations Management: Managing Risks, Surviving Crises" became the focus of the afternoon session. Singapore Institute of Technology Design and Specialized Businesses Associate Professor Detlev Remy, DBA; Tourism Human Resource Development Specialist and Consultant Paul Penfold; and Travel Insider Tour and Travel Agency General Manager Arnulfo Ricardo Butiong served as the speakers.

The two-hour afternoon session discussed the effects of the pandemic on various branches of the tourism industry and offered possibilities of recovery tactics and new marketing strategies.

According to Penfold, "We need flexibility and agile thinking to survive in an uncertain world." He also acknowledged that the temporary halt of mass tourism helped preserve and maintain some of the hotspots that were negatively affected by overcrowding and destruction of nature, but emphasized that renewed tourism efforts post-pandemic would have to be more responsible.

UST CTHM Dean Atty. Gezzez Giezi G. Granado, Ph.D., in his closing remarks, thanked both speakers and participants for being eager to facilitate the learning of future industry practitioners despite COVID-19.

Session 1 was made accessible to the public via the UST CTHM ToHEX Facebook page. Session One can be found through this link: <https://www.facebook.com/ToHEX910/videos/2669298683391188/> while Session 2 is available at: https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=568562167379635&ref=watch_permalink

UST Department of English holds online lectures on teaching English in new normal

On different dates scheduled from May 15 to May 29, faculty members from the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Department of English delivered lectures online on their respective areas of expertise. The topics included teaching in the new normal, curriculum mapping, promoting and respecting Intellectual Property Rights, remote teaching of Purposive Communication, Reading as tool for empowerment.

The series of online lectures were organized by the Department Chair Prof. Rachele B. Lintao, Ph.D., and were conducted as part of the University's preparation for the 'new normal' mode of instructional delivery in response to the government's call to educational institutions in these challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Assoc. Prof. Alejandro S. Bernardo, Ph.D. and Assoc. Prof. Andres Julio V. Santiago, Ph.D. delivered online lectures titled "COVID-19, ECQ, and ELT: English Language Teaching in the New (ab)Normal" and "Curriculum Mapping in Tertiary Level Education" respectively.

Bernardo, the Assistant Dean of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters and a renowned speaker on the English language instruction and world Englishes, discussed the challenges faced by English language instructors in the current health crisis that has redesigned the educational landscape. He highlighted that research studies should be conducted on digital teaching methods, especially on online collaborative learning. He mentioned certain realities in online collaborative learning, such as its challenges. He also noted that most online activities that are uploaded on discussion boards have minimal dialogue or conversations with students.

Santiago's lecture focused on the benefits of curriculum mapping in the tertiary level. He emphasized that curriculum mapping aims to achieve vertical, horizontal, subject area and interdisciplinary coherence.

Lawyer and UST English Language teacher Selenne Anne Santiago-Leynes, delivered an online lecture on 'The Role of ELT in promoting and respecting Intellectual Property Rights.' Contextualizing "ELT" to mean English Language Teachers and English Language Teaching, Atty. Leynes emphasized that as English language teachers, they should be adept with relevant jurisprudence, and legal provisions concerning intellectual property rights such as R.A. No. 8293 or Intellectual Property Code. Teachers should know the practices and policies of the school involving intellectual property rights. English language teaching, according to Leynes, should include discussions on plagiarism and how to prevent its commission, or even special topics on



Dr. Bernardo

intellectual property rights/copyright. She reiterated that English teachers play a vital role since outputs in classes – both oral and written – are products of literary and artistic creations, and thus are protected under the Copyright Law. Hence, teachers need to be at the forefront in promoting and respecting intellectual property rights so students can reflect the practices in their own personal and scholastic life.

Another online lecture was delivered by Ms. Elizabeth Kapulong where she shared insights on Purposive Communication, the English Language course that has been taught in the college level when the curriculum was changed as a result of the K-12 curriculum. She highlighted the importance of teacher's familiarity and availability among students that are classified as Generation X and Generation Z who use social media platforms that develop their digital vocabulary. Teachers should learn to cope with different academic realities that include change in the educational delivery, such as the remote delivery of Purposive Communication. She also shared that critical thinking in Purposive Communication can be achieved through recognizing and understanding different perceptions.

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Reading and writing are skills that students have to be competent at to have a successful academic life. Dr. Rosalyn Mirasol, the current Vice-President of the Reading Association of the Philippines, talked about the importance of reading as a tool for empowerment. She emphasized that reading empowers individuals through deeper intellectual curiosity, critical literacy, and by providing joy and contentment. She also suggested that the following be considered: non-cognitive assessments such as reader's interests, motivations and attitudes of readers as well as the materials they are exposed to. Teachers should be able to show the connection between the texts and its application. In this way, the understanding and valuation of reading can give satisfaction to both teachers and students.

UST Department of English, Linguistic Society of the Philippines co-host Technology, ELT Webinar

The UST Department of English, together with Linguistic Society of the Philippines (LSP), hosted a webinar on technology and ELT on June 20, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon via Zoom.

Titled "ELT(echnology): Teaching English in the 'Now' Normal," the webinar featured the following speakers: Dr. Willy Renandya from the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore; Dr. Camilla Vizconde from the UST Department of English; and, Dr. Dennis Pulido from the Linguistic Society of the Philippines and Far Eastern University.

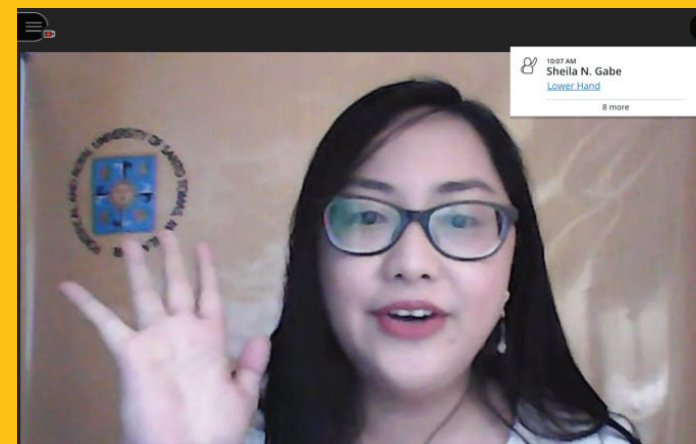
The webinar was open to the public.



Dr. Santiago



Dr. Mirasol



Atty. Leynes



Ms. Kapulong

UST offers free mental health care for COVID-19 frontliners

THOMASIAN MENTAL HEALTH RESPONDERS



The Thomasian Mental Health Responders, led by the Association of Thomasian Psychology Alumni (ATPA) and the University of Santo Tomas College of Science Department of Psychology, offers free psychosocial services for frontliners and those involved in the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ).

Licensed psychologists, guidance counselors, medical doctors, Psychology graduate students, and allied health professionals comprise the over 150 volunteers.

This initiative aids frontliners who are committed to offer health care especially for suspect, probable, confirmed COVID-19 patients in hospitals, as well as those who provide the needed support to ensure the success of the implementation of the ECQ, and those who are feeling

not only the physical toll of their work, but also the psychological aspect of having to overcome fear while putting their health at risk.

The Philippine government imposed the ECQ in Luzon on March 16, 2020 and it ran until May 15, 2020 in which movement of the population was restricted except for necessity, work, and health circumstances. A modified ECQ was declared from May 16 to 30, 2020 as a possible transition phase to a General Community Quarantine (GCQ). Eventually on June 1, NCR has been put under the General Community Quarantine status.

Those interested in availing the services of the Thomasian Mental Health Responders can register through <http://tinyurl.com/TMHR-COVID19> or send a message to 0917-152-1817 or m.me/ThomasianMHRresponders.

#HeartHealHope: UST Singers alumni thank COVID-19 frontliners with musical rendition

Expressing solidarity with COVID-19 frontliners, University of Santo Tomas Singers (USTS) alumni from around the globe who are almost a hundred in number, performed on a virtual stage singing composer Dodjie Simon's "Isang Dugo, Isang Lahi, Isang Musika" (One bloodline, one race, one music) in a music video uploaded on April 23, 2020.

"The alumni members of the UST Singers from all over the globe gathered virtually together to give life to our valiant song of hope and unity and spread inspiration. We come together as one family praying for everyone's health and safety," said Prof. Fidel G. Calalang, Jr., founder and conductor of the two-time Choir of the World Champion and 2019 Choir of the World Champion of Champions.

The nature of the work of frontliners is not unknown to some 30 of these alumni who are currently serving as medical

frontliners in the various parts of the world. There are medical doctors, medical technicians, nurses and pharmacists among the UST Singers alumni.

With Dr. Joel Navarro providing the choral arrangement, the voices were individually recorded using smartphones and tablets. Each track was blended together with the help of today's modern-day sound technology.

In addition to thanking the frontliners, the video also expressed the choir's gratitude to the "communities that continue to serve in the midst of risk and danger."

"We urge all of us Filipinos to give hope and opportunity for our people to rise again," said Calalang speaking on behalf of the UST Singers alumni.

The video can be found through this link: <https://www.facebook.com/OfficialUSTS/videos/1575662289266647/>



Individually recorded voices harmonize despite the distance, one in their mission to thank frontliners

Thomasians spread spirit of resilience through original song ‘Malalagpasan’



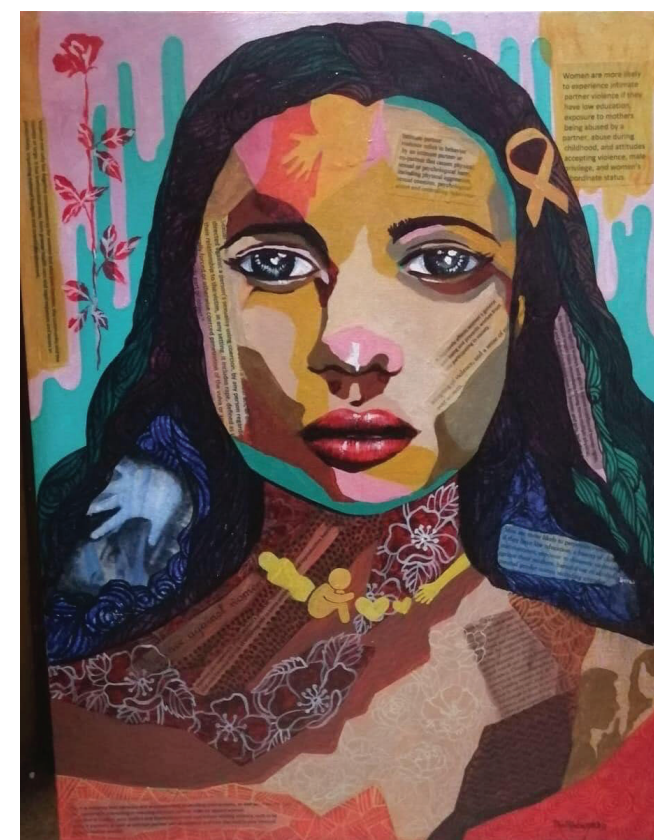
Music video participants thank frontliners through handwritten messages.

The University of Santo Tomas recently released a tribute music video to bolster the morale and thank COVID-19 frontliners. It contained heartfelt messages for the frontliners, featuring the song titled “Malalagpasan,” (We shall overcome). UST Conservatory of Music student Kenneth Reodica, wrote the song, and it was performed by fellow Music students Jan Romina Montenegro and Ryan Gabriel Ayangco.

The music video, which at time of writing had almost 100,000 views on the official Facebook page of the University of Santo Tomas, is accompanied by a message: “We are witnessing the heroism of individuals who remain committed to duty despite the risks to their own safety. We salute you, especially our frontliners. We are with you in praying and believing that like past struggles, we will overcome this.”

The music video was also played on air in mainstream media such as CNN.

Members of the Thomasian community featured in the music video thanked frontliners through handwritten messages.



Consebido-Adonis' winning work titled “Violence Against Women”

Consebido-Adonis of CFAD bags first prize in Advocacy Painting Contest

UST College of Fine Arts and Design Advertising Arts faculty member Asst. Prof. Ana Rhea Consebido-Adonis, won first prize in the “Say No to Violence Against Women” Art Competition sponsored by the Zonta Club of Manila III (ZCM) in collaboration with the United Women Artists Association of the Philippines (UWAAP). The contest winners were selected in an online judging and the winners were announced on May 18, 2020.

The artist explained that, “Mixed media symbols [like passages about women’s experiences] are noticeable. It is about how mostly women are the ones susceptible to experiencing abuse and maltreatment from the opposite sex, resulting in depression.” The art piece, titled “Violence Against

Women,” is 18 by 24 inches.

Noticeable among the dark themes included, were the flowers in the painting. In an online interview, Adonis shared, “If given the right love and care, everything will bloom beautifully in its own way.”

Consebido-Adonis, who obtained her Master of Fine Arts degree from UST in 2013, is the Community Development Coordinator of the College of Fine Arts and Design.

Founded in 1919, Zonta International, to which ZCM belongs, is a global organization of executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy.

PHOTO NEWS

Perenal of CFAD wins National Heritage Month Digital Poster Competition

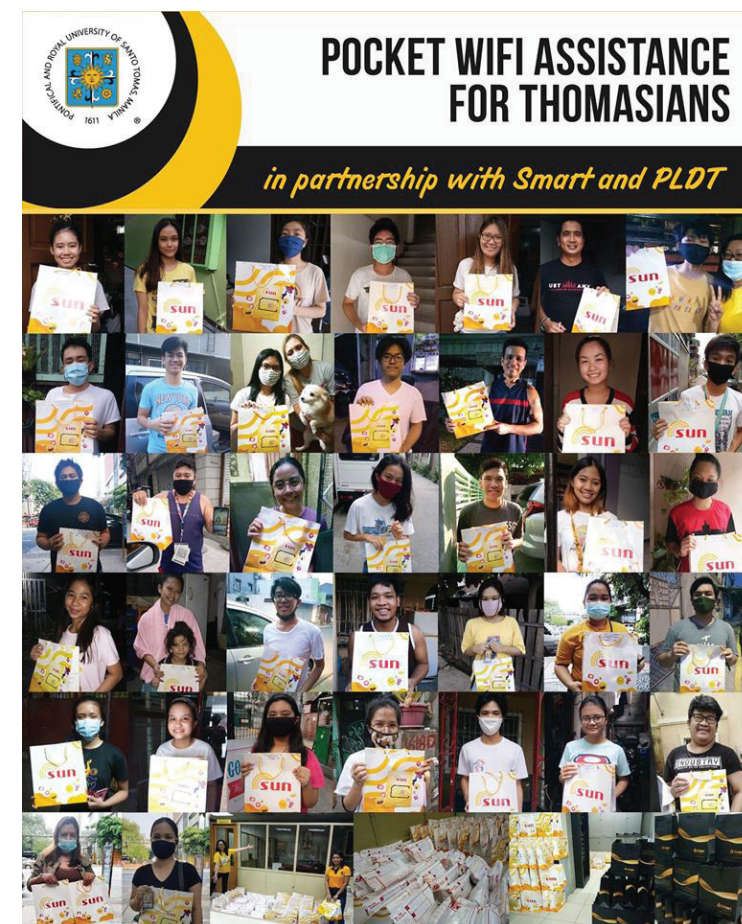


Perenal (photo courtesy of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts Facebook Page)



U ST College of Fine Arts and Design student Joshua Perenal won in the 2020 National Heritage Month of May (NHM) Digital Poster Competition. His work was chosen as the official poster of the NHM 2020. The competition opened on November 27, 2019 and ended on January 9, 2020. Perenal is a Painting major.

Perenal's winning work



UST students get Smart Bro pocket Wi-Fi

UST students receive their Smart Bro pocket Wi-Fi

BOARD TOPNOTCHER



Bar Examination
November 2019
National Passing Rate: 27.36%



6th - 88.1730
Kenneth Glenn L. Manuel

Words of Hope from His Holiness Pope Francis

“ In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: Christ is risen and is living by our side. ”

Pope Francis
May 7, 2020



from the official Twitter account of Pope Francis:

@Pontifex

Photo by: Marc Henrich Go



THE ACADEMIA

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