



THE ACADEMIA

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Ar. Santillan (top row, rightmost) is featured with other speakers from ASEAN universities in the symposium flyer.

Santillan of Architecture participates at AUN-ADERA inaugural meeting, symposium

UST College of Architecture faculty member Ar. Caryn Paredes-Santillan, Ph.D., represented the University of Santo Tomas at the Inaugural Meeting & Symposium of the ASEAN University Network Architectural Design Education and Research in ASEAN (AUN-ADERA). AUN-ADERA is a Thematic Network of the Asian University Network (AUN) that focuses on the architectural design education and research in Southeast Asia. The online event was held recently via Zoom and was attended by 21 schools across 10 countries.

The theme of the event was “Modern Heritage Conservation in SEAsia: Education, Design, and Research.” It was organized by the Department of Architecture of the National University of Singapore’s (NUS) Centre of Architecture and Urban Heritage in Asia with the support of the AUN.

AUN-ADERA TO PAGE 2

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and more ...

AUN-ADERA FROM PAGE 1

The symposium featured Keynote Speakers Prof. Masami Kobayashi of Meiji University (Day 1) and Ar. Teh Joo Heng, Chief Examiner of the Singapore Board of Architects (Day 2). Prof. Kobayashi spoke about “Conserving Kunio Maekawa’s International House in Tokyo, Japan” and Ar. Heng talked about “Conserving Everyday Modern.”

Throughout the two-day symposium, various representatives of the 21 universities shared their curricula and activities geared towards modern built heritage and its preservation. Likewise, there were also discussions on the role of the academe in advocating the importance and awareness of the study

and preservation of modern built heritage in the ASEAN region.

Ar. Santillan presented how the study of modern ASEAN architecture is incorporated into the curriculum of UST College of Architecture. She shared that freshmen are exposed early on to analysis and critical thinking through history and theory subjects. In their second year, students are exposed to the development of Philippine Architecture from pre-colonial to contemporary times, while principles of conservation are taught to students in their third year.

Santillan also explained the programs of the UST Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the

Tropics (UST-CCCPET) of the Graduate School, which is the organizing body of all cultural heritage research concerns at UST. She briefly discussed a holistic approach to the study of modern built heritage, incorporating studies of spatial form and object form and correlating such to socio-cultural studies. She expressed her advocacy for the use of technology and social media apps to promote interest in modern built heritage conservation.

The webpage of AUN-ADERA (<https://aun-adera.net/>) was also launched during the symposium. The event resulted in creating six working groups with the task of developing events for students and professors of AUN within the next two years.

Ar. Santillan presents via Zoom at the AUN-ADERA Inaugural Meeting

Newly discovered Pandan species ‘*Freycinetia nonatoi*’ named after UST scientist; ‘Pandan Queen’ speaks on its medicinal attributes at DOSTV’s ‘ExperTalk’



Nonato (right) shares with show host, Gel Miranda, about her research on Pandan.

After paving the way for other studies on the Pandan leaves in Southeast Asia, University of Santo Tomas Vice Rector for Research and Innovation and Academician of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) Prof. Maribel G. Nonato, Ph.D., was honored by her advisee Dr. Christina Tan, by naming a newly discovered Pandan species after her — *Freycinetia nonatoi*.

In a paper published on August 18, 2020, Dr. Christina Tan, of the UST Graduate School and the UST Research Center for the Natural and Applied Sciences, and Dr. Ary P. Keim, of the Indonesian Institute of Sciences – Research Centre for Biology, detailed their discovery in Llavac, Quezon Province of a “climbing pandan of moderate size; auricle lobed with conspicuous spines on margin; color of bracts bright yellow.”

Regarding the etymology, the authors wrote, “We name this species in honor of Professor Maribel G. Nonato of the University of Santo Tomas (Luzon,

Philippines), who has been conducting research on the phytochemistry of pandans for decades. She is the adviser of [Tan].”

Freycinetia nonatoi, from the family Pandanaceae, is endemic to Luzon, and grows in lowland tropical rainforests.

ExperTalk Online

On September 2, Nonato, a distinguished scientist, was a guest in the “ExperTalk Online” series in the Department of Science and Technology’s “DOSTV” channel. In the 23-minute episode, she discussed with the host Ms. Gel Miranda the medicinal uses of *Pandanus amaryllifolius*, which is locally known as *pandang mabango*.

Nonato shared that she first became interested in studying pandan when she was working on her doctoral studies at the University of Wollongong in the early 90s. She expressed an interest in studying endemic Philippine plants, one of which was *P. amaryllifolius*, used in cooking white

rice and *kakanin* (Filipino snacks commonly made of glutinous rice). As she later expanded her investigation into the different species in the *Pandanus* genus, Nonato found that some are potential sources of antimicrobials, diuretics, antioxidants, and anti-inflammatory agents.

While *pandang mabango* is already being used as a traditional herbal diuretic by boiling its leaves in water and drinking it as tea, Nonato cautioned that the other medicinal properties in its compounds can only be extracted through the proper scientific processes and that such teas are more preventive supplements, not curative.

“Currently, we are looking at what we call ‘endemic species’ or types of *Pandanus* that can only be found in the Philippines, and we found that there are really some species with anti-inflammatory properties. We also correlate our results

PANDAN QUEEN TO PAGE 4

PANDAN QUEEN FROM PAGE 3



Fig. 1 *Freycinetia nonatoi* A.P.Keim & C.C.Tan. a. Lobed auricle with spines on the margin (black arrows); b. dried leaf; c. climbing habit, up to about 10 m high; d. staminate inflorescence showing the separated flowering parts (i.e., 'staminate cephalium') and numerous minute anthers. — Scale bars = 4.5 cm. — Photos by C.C. Tan.

Freycinetia nonatoi, named after Dr. Nonato [Photo by Dr. Tan obtained from <https://doi.org/10.3767/blumea.2020.65.02.02>]

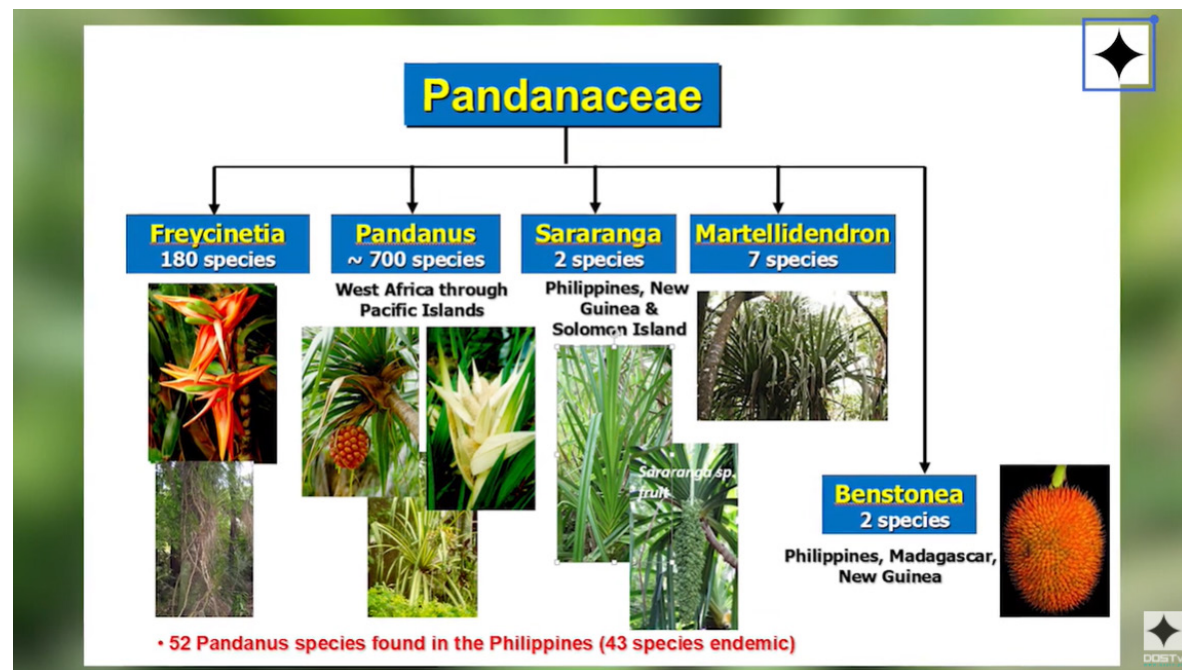
with the claims of the surrounding community [on the medicinal properties of Pandan leaves] through ethno-botanical studies. First, we search for Pandan species within the country and then we ask the surrounding community 'Do you use this? How and for what purposes?' We documented those details, too. From there, we correlated their claims with the results of our tests on the leaves.

We need these (pieces of) information so that we can definitively say that Pandan does have a property like this [as diuretic] and that it's safe to consume [as tea]. In this way, we are able to supplement claims with evidence-based scientific information," Nonato said in Filipino.

Upon being congratulated by the host for the numerous awards her pioneering research has obtained, Nonato said, "More than the awards, I am just passionate about the subject, and I also like knowing that my students also continue to work on pandan.

I am just happy and pleasantly surprised that my work is recognized." Nonato has been given the moniker 'Pandan queen' by her colleagues in the field due to her tireless research on pandan.

"DOSTv: Science for the People" is a daily weather, science, and technology television and online program in the Philippines produced by the Department of Science and Technology – Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST – STII). The episode on the interview with Dr. Maribel Nonato can be viewed through this link: <https://youtu.be/VtCW6Y024O8>



A slide from Dr. Nonato's presentation during the interview details the division of genus in the Pandanaceae family.

UST research on supercapacitors bags 1st place at PAASE symposium

Abaca-Cotton Fabric with Multi-Walled Carbon Nanotubes and Polyaniline-Polypyrrole Complex Layer: A Greener Approach to Energy Storage

Celine Grace V. Causapin^a, Felicidad Christina R. Ramirez^{b,c}, and Christina A. Binag^{a,b,c}
^aThe Graduate School, ^bResearch Center for the Natural and Applied Sciences, ^cDepartment of Chemistry, College of Science, University of Santo Tomas, España Blvd., Sampaloc, Manila 1015 PHILIPPINES

Abaca-Cotton Fabric (ACF)	Multi-walled Carbon Nanotubes (MWCNTs)	Polyaniline-Polypyrrole Copolymer (PAPY)
x Non-conducting	✓ High conductivity	✓ Good conductivity
✓ High surface area	✓ High stability	✓ Improved cycling stability compared to homopolymers
✓ Suitable pore size for supercapacitors	x Low capacitance values	✓ High capacitance values

Recently, wearable electronics are becoming a breakthrough with a vast range of functionalities, making them a huge development in energy storage devices⁵. Textile supercapacitors tend to be lightweight, flexible, and provide sufficient porosity, which allows the electroactive materials to penetrate with ease. This mechanism provides sufficient conductivity, as well as capacitance, making it capable of storing energy².

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

In recent years, the rapid growth of global economy, the depletion of fossil fuels, high-energy demands and increasing environmental pollution stimulated the innovation of renewable, clean, and sustainable energy storage technologies¹.

METHODOLOGY

Preparation of composites: Washed ACF (2cm x 1cm) → dip → MWCNT-SDS dispersion → dry at 80°C → wash → dry at 80°C → MWCNT/ACF (0.25 mg/cm² loading)

Diffusion bath (1 h): MWCNT/ACF in 10 mL of 0.1 M pyrrole + 10 mL of 0.2 M FeCl₃ in 0.2 M HCl → Polymerization bath (2 h) → Wash → 0.2 M HCl then EtOH → PAPY/MWCNT/ACF

PAPY/MWCNT/ACF in 10 mL of 0.1 M aniline: + 10 mL of 0.1 M APS in 0.2 M HCl → Wash → 0.2 M HCl then EtOH → PAPY/MWCNT/ACF

Characterization

Fabricated four-point probe set-up (Mactal and Fernandez, 2015)

Potentiostat with the full cell supercapacitor (Biologic VSP-300 potentiostat)

LED testing

Thermogravimetric analyzer (PerkinElmer TGA4000)

Supercapacitor model²

LED testing set-up

OBJECTIVES

- Fabricate a fabric supercapacitor with PAPY/MWCNT/ACF as electrode
- Characterize the fabricated supercapacitor according to physical and electrochemical properties
- Apply the fabric supercapacitor to an LED sample

Causapin, Ramirez, and Binag's winning scientific poster

With the recent rise in wearable electronics and the ever-growing need for clean, renewable, and sustainable energy storage technologies, the demand for textile supercapacitors has also increased.

In response to this need, UST Graduate School student Celine Grace V. Causapin, along with UST Research Center for Natural and Applied Sciences and College of Science faculty researchers Dr. Felicidad Christina R. Ramirez and Dr. Christina A. Binag, fabricated a supercapacitor using Abaca-Cotton Fabric (ACF) with Multi-Walled Carbon Nanotubes (MWCNTs) and Polyaniline-Polypyrrole Complex Layer (PAPY) as electrode materials.

This research study by three Thomasian researchers won first place in the Scientific Posters category of the Rapid Fire Competition under the Material Science and Technology Cluster during the 40th Philippine-American Academy of Science and Engineering (PAASE) Anniversary and 2020 Annual Scientific Meeting and Symposium (APAMS), as announced in the closing ceremonies held via Zoom on August 14, 2020.

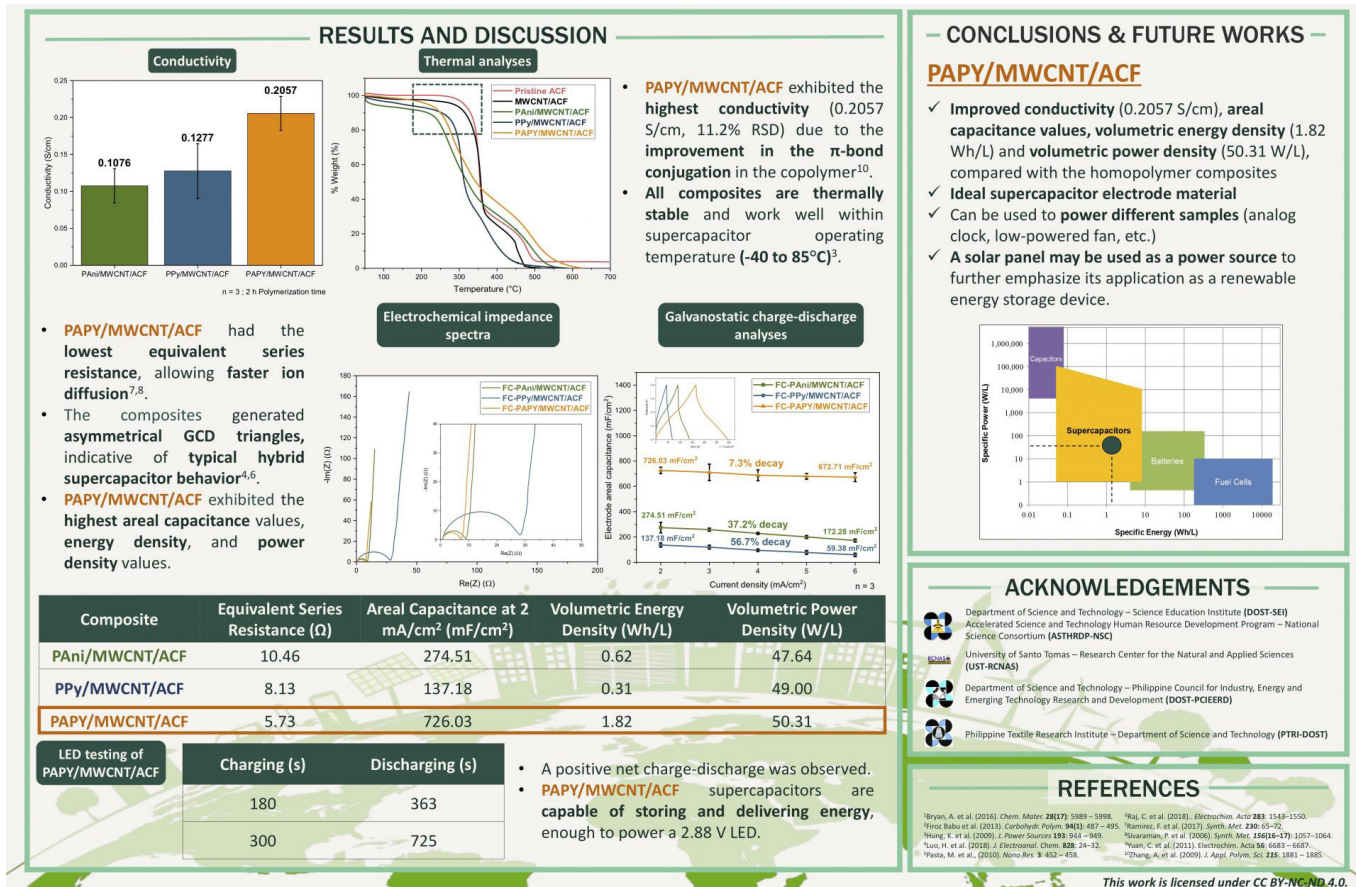
The study was able to show that "the energy density (1.82 Wh/L) and power density (50.31 W/L) values of PAPY/

SUPERCAPACITORS TO PAGE 6

MWCNT/ACF fall well within the supercapacitor range of the Ragone plot, indicative of an ideal supercapacitor electrode material behavior.” This ACF, though non-conducting, has a high surface area and is suitably porous for supercapacitors, while MWCNTs have high conductivity and stability but low capacitance. PAPY complements the other materials with its good conductivity, improved cycling stability, and high capacitance values.

This means that supercapacitors with these electrode materials are “capable of storing and delivering energy, enough to power a 2.88 V LED” and can be used to power a variety of other low power devices such as PC cards, portable media players and flashlights.

Other potential applications are in off-grid areas or rural areas, as well as assistance during and after major calamities. This textile-based supercapacitor is highly sustainable with the use of indigenous fabrics like abaca blended cotton.



Causapin, Ramirez, and Binag's winning scientific poster

INTERNATIONALIZATION

Three UST-Curtin University graduate students hold research colloquium on metallurgy; Australian ambassador delivers congratulatory remarks

Three students of the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Graduate School Master of Science in Chemical Engineering program, under the UST-Curtin University “1+1” dual Master of Science degree jointly offered by both universities, finished their one-year linkage with the Curtin University-Western Australian School of Mines (CU-WASM) with a research colloquium held on August 8, 2020.

Focusing on metallurgy, the presentations held via Zoom also served as a culmination activity and promotion of the dual Master of Science degree.

The colloquium was graced by the presence of Australian Ambassador to the Philippines His Excellency Steven J. Robinson, AO, who delivered the congratulatory remarks for the three Thomasian graduate students, namely, Engr. Princess R. Parubrub, Engr. Julius Christian Conrad A. Puentes, and Engr. Maria Joriza C. Bondoc.

Also present were the Curtin University-Western Australian School of Mines (CU-WASM) Program Coordinator and Balik

Scientist to the Philippines Dr. Richard D. Alorro, the Philippine Australian Human Resource and Organizational Development Facility (PAHRODF) Facility Director and Australia Awards and Alumni Engagement Program - Philippines Director Ms. Milalin Javellana, Assistant Vice President and Business Procurement Group Manager of Ginebra San Miguel, Inc. and former UST Chemical Engineering Department Chair Engr. Rosalina A. Lioanag, Executive Director of San Miguel Foundation, Inc. Ms. Camille B. Buenaventura, UST Graduate School Dean Prof. Michael Anthony C. Vasco, Ph.D., and UST GS Engineering Programs Cluster Lead Prof. Maria Natalia R. Dimaano, Ph.D.

Parubrub, Puentes, and Bondoc pursued their specialization courses and fulfilled their thesis requirements at the Curtin University-Western Australian School of Mines (CU-WASM) and first obtained their master's degree on Engineering Science (Metallurgy) from CU-WASM.

Since the graduate students have already defended their theses at CU-WASM, they publicly presented their theses through this colloquium at the UST Graduate School in compliance with the requirement of the UST GS Office for Graduate Research. These presentations equate to the graduate students' theses completion, which is required to obtain their Master of Science in Chemical Engineering degree from UST.

Parubrub presented her research titled “Separation and Purification of Scandium from Oxalic Leach Solutions of Nickel Laterite Process Residue,” while Bondoc discussed the “Technospheric Mining of Cobalt from Nonferrous Slag.” Puentes delved on “Rare Earths Recovery from Monazite Ore using Oxalic Acid with Multi-stage, Rare Earths Oxalate and Hydrogen Peroxide Leaching.”

Besides special guests, around 80 guests composed of graduate students, invitees from mining companies, researchers and faculty members attended the online colloquium.



Present with the researchers Engr. Parubrub (top row, second from left), Engr. Puentes (top row, third from left), and Engr. Bondoc (second row, second from left) in the Zoom session are special guests that include Australian Ambassador to the Philippines His Excellency Steven J. Robinson (top row, rightmost), UST Graduate School Dean Prof. Michael Anthony Vasco, Ph.D. (top row, fourth from left), UST GS OGR Director Prof. Dr. Grecebjo Jonathan D Alejandro (third row, rightmost), faculty members, and invitees from mining companies.

Lagusnilad Underpass is inaugurated; Thomasian architects help refurbish iconic space



Manila City Mayor Francisco Domagoso (fourth from left), Vice Mayor and Thomasian alumna Honey Lacuna (second from left) with representatives of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and National Parks Development Committee during the re-opening of the underpass [Photo courtesy of the Manila Public Information Office]

Near the heart of Manila sits the Lagusnilad Underpass which connects the historic walled city of Intramuros with the Manila City Hall. Having previously been infamous for being dark and crowded, the renovated underpass was refurbished and inaugurated by Manila Mayor Francisco ‘Isko Moreno’ Domagoso on August 24, 2020 with a Thomasian touch.

Intending to overhaul the space where thousands of people pass through each day, the Manila City Government and the Department of Engineering and Public Works (DEPW) partnered with academic institutions from Manila including the University of Santo Tomas (UST). The UST group was composed of College of Architecture faculty member Ar. Juanito Malaga, and UST alumni John Benedict Fallorina, Sean Patrick Ortiz, and Leon Centeno Tuazon, who assisted in redesigning the Lagusnilad underpass.

According to the Manila Public Information Office, the redevelopment initially commenced in November 2019. Key issues such as flooding, vagrants and security have been addressed with key agencies such as the Department

of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)-NCR, Manila City Security Office, and Department of Tourism, Culture and Arts of Manila (DTCAM).

The underpass is expected to have a 24/7 security, composed of designated security personnel and CCTV cameras connected to the Manila Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO) command center. A Manila Interactive Info Desk that will give the public information about the city is installed. “Books from Underground”, a local bookstore that was popular prior to the redesign, was also able to retain its space and will open soon.

Aside from these practical functions, initiatives to preserve Filipino cultural heritage were also included in the form of visual art. Murals depicting significant events, figures, and structures in Philippine history now adorn the walls of the underpass. The artworks were created in collaboration with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) Gerilya Artist Collective and were inspired by the works of Carlos ‘Botong’ Francisco, the first Thomasian National Artist.

UST Commerce is SEOIL Phil., Inc.’s official Market Research Partner

The University of Santo Tomas (UST) and SEOIL Philippines, Inc., signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to officially name the Marketing Management Department of the College of Commerce and Business Administration a Market Research Partner. The MOA was signed on September 18, 2020.

Representing UST in the signing were Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl R. Peralta, DrPH, Dean Leonardo M. Canoy, Jr., Ph.D. SEOIL Philippines, Inc., was represented by its Vice President for Corporate and Consumer Marketing Jose Jaime dela Fuente and Senior Manager for Retail Insights and Executions Mr. Serge Arnold Rodriguez.

Through the partnership, students under the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, major in Marketing

Management degree program will design, implement, and turnover marketing research deliverables for SEOIL. According to Marketing Management Chair Francis Lawrence B. de Jesus, Ph.D., this will allow the students to achieve learning outcomes grounded on real-world scenarios from the perspective of the one of the biggest and most respected corporations in the country.

In his message delivered via Zoom, dela Fuente expressed his appreciation to UST for the partnership, especially at a time when the company assesses marketing sentiments as part of its “Fuel PH to Recovery” project. Earlier, Dean Canoy delivered a speech on behalf of the institution.

Present during the ceremonial confirmation that took place through

google meet were: Dean Canoy, Dr. de Jesus, Dr. Etrata, Mr. dela Fuente, and Mr. Rodriguez.

Students who will be part of the research partnership will be under the supervision of Marketing Research faculty member Etrata.

Founded in 1978, SEOIL is the country’s leading and largest independent fuel company. It is a Filipino-owned company that offers products that range from automobile gasoline to industry-specific lubricants and service, and has over 350 stations across the archipelago. According to its website, SEOIL works toward the use of biofuels as renewable sources of energy that can be produced locally. It started to sell and promote E10, the gasoline with 10% ethanol content in 2005, even before the Biofuels Act of 2006 was signed.



UST CCBA Dean Canoy (top row, rightmost) and SEOIL Philippines, Inc. Vice President for Corporate & Consumer Marketing Jose Jaime dela Fuente (second row, rightmost) together with Marketing Management Chair Francis Lawrence de Jesus, Mr. Antonio Etrata, and SEOIL Senior Manager for Retail Insights and Executions Mr. Serge Arnold Rodriguez during the online MOA Confirmation

LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

Dean Madrunio of Arts and Letters presents overview of forensic linguistics at English Dept. webinar



University of Santo Tomas
Faculty of Arts and Letters
Department of English

**A Monthly Webinar Series on
FORENSIC LINGUISTICS**

**Featured Topic for August:
Forensic Linguistics:
An Overview**

Dr. Marilu R. Madrunio
University of Santo Tomas
Manila

August 20, 2020 (Thursday)
6:00 – 7:00 p.m. (Philippine Standard Time)

Registration Link:
<https://forensiclinguisticsanoverview.eventbrite.com>

Event poster



English Department Chair Dr. Lintao acts as webinar moderator.

University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Arts and Letters Dean Prof. Marilu R. Madrunio, Ph.D., presented a webinar on “Forensic Linguistics: An Overview” on August 20, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. as part the monthly webinar series on forensic linguistics hosted by the UST Department of English.

Madrunio provided a comprehensive introductory lecture on forensic linguistics covering the origin, nature, scope, sample cases and even possible research topics for those who want to engage in research on forensic linguistics.

The event which was held online via Zoom and streamed on Facebook has generated more than 7,300 views as of this writing. The webinar was able to reach the maximum number of registrants of 500 just within six hours after posting the event.

The local participants included those from Cagayan and Isabela up north in Luzon; Kabankalan City and Maasin, Southern Leyte in the Visayas; and as far as Suldan Kudarat, Maguindanao and Kidapawan City, North Cotabato in Mindanao. International participants were from Pakistan, Thailand, Indonesia, Cambodia, London and the USA.

UST English Department Chair Dr. Rachele B. Lintao, acted as webinar moderator.

For its September webinar, the UST Department of English will feature Dr. Zhang Shaomin from the Guangdong University of Foreign Studies who will talk about “Authorship Analysis: Categories, Methods, and Pilot Studies” on September 17, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Hidalgo lectures on Edith L. Tiempo’s Fiction for NCCA’s National Artists for Literature Series



Dr. Hidalgo (top row, rightmost), Dr. Abad (third row, center), UST Publishing House Director Asst. Prof. Ailil Alvarez (top row, center), Master of Ceremonies, Moderator, and UST CCWLS Assistant Director Assoc. Prof. Ralph Semino Galán (top row, forth from left), Dr. Joyce Arriola (top row, leftmost), and attendees of the online lecture

UST Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies Director Professor Emeritus Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, Ph.D., delivered an online lecture on the short stories written by Edith L. Tiempo as part of the “Manila Reads Edith Tiempo,” a special webinar organized by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), and the UST Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies.

Hidalgo’s lecture titled “Women and Power in Edith Tiempo’s Fiction” focused on the proto-feminist elements in Tiempo’s short stories “The Corral” and “The Black Monkey” to prove her thesis that, as a writer of fiction, Tiempo was ahead of her time.

Quoting the esteemed literary critic Isagani R. Cruz, Hidalgo reiterated Tiempo’s *theoria* and *praxis* of “paying

attention to contemporary social problems as a strong material for the literary work, and evolving structures and symbolisms for the exploration of those contemporary problems.” Then she demonstrated how these two stories belie the idea held by some critics and readers about Tiempo’s being mainly an advocate for New Criticism.

Focusing on the protagonists Pilar and Neena, she emphasized Tiempo’s awareness of many women’s situations during her time, her explorations of the nuances of women’s relationships with the men in their lives, and her belief that, though a woman might sometimes be entrapped, she was not entirely unarmed—empowerment was within her reach, and she could choose to seize it.

Hidalgo is a prolific prize-winning writer of fiction and nonfiction, a critic

and a literary scholar, with more than 40 published books, including three novels, five short story collections, and 16 essay collections. Some of these books have received national awards, like the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature’s Grand Prize for the Novel, and several National Book Awards (given by the Manila Critics Circle and the National Book Development Board), for both her fiction and her nonfiction. She has also received the *Dangal ng Lahi* Award from the Palanca Awards, the *Gawad Balagtas* from the *Unyon ng mga Manunulat sa Pilipinas* (UMPIL), and the *Parangal Hagbong* from the UST Varsitarian.

**HIDALGO LECTURES
TO PAGE 12**

HIDALGO LECTURES FROM PAGE 11

Hidalgo is credited with being a pioneer writer and scholar of creative nonfiction, particularly travel writing. As a critic, she is best known for her groundbreaking work in studying literary memoir and fiction by Filipino women. Her latest book is *Collected Stories and Tales* published in 2019 by the UST Publishing House.

"Manila Reads Edith Tiempo" is the second installment of the National Artist for Literature Series of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts' National Committee on Literary Arts. The first one, titled "Cebu Reads Lazaro Francisco," was held at the University of San Carlos on April 11, 2019, and was co-sponsored by the NCCA, the *Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino* (KWF), and the Cebuano Studies Center. The third installment titled "Davao Reads Amado Hernandez" will be held on October 2, 2020.

Tiempo, who was honored as National Artist for Literature in 1999, is the author of the following books: the novels *A Blade of Fern* (1978), *His Native Coast* (1979), *The Alien Corn* (1992), *One, Tilting Leaves* (1995), and *The Builder* (2004); the short story collection *Abide, Joshua, and Other Stories* (1964); the poetry collections *The Tracks of Babylon and Other Poems* (1966), *The Charmer's Box and Other Poems* (1993), *Beyond, Extensions* (1993), *Marginal Annotations and Other Poems*, and *Commend Contend/ Beyond Extensions* (2010), and the writing guides *Six Uses of Fictional Symbols* (2004) and *Six Poetry Formats and the Transforming Image* (2008).

Aside from being named National Artist, Tiempo also won the following awards: the Palanca Awards (1951, 1955, 1967, and 1969 for her poetry and short stories), the *Philippines Free Press* Short Story Contest (1955 and 1959), the Cultural Center of the Philippines Award (1979, First Prize for the Novel), and the *Gawad Pambansang Alagad ni Balagtas* from UMPIL in 1988. Tiempo has mentored many aspiring Filipino poets and fictionists from all over the Philippines through the Silliman National Writers' Workshop, which she established and directed in Dumaguete City with her husband Edilberto Tiempo, himself a prize-winning fictionist.

Other participants of the online lecture were UP University Professor Emeritus Dr. Gémino H. Abad, who delivered the second lecture which focused on Tiempo's poetry; Prof. Virgilio S. Almario, National Artist for Literature and former Chairman of the NCCA and the KWF; UST's Prof. Joyce Arriola, who delivered the opening remarks; UST Publishing House Director Asst. Prof. Ma. Ailil B. Alvarez, who read selected short story excerpts and poems; Cebuano Studies Director Prof. Hope Sabanpan-Yu, who delivered the closing remarks, and UST CCWLS Assistant Director Assoc. Prof. Ralph Semino Galán, who served as the Master of Ceremonies and moderator of the open forum.

**Manila reads
EDITH TIEMPO**

AUGUST 22, 2020
Saturday, 1:30 pm

via Zoom app

"Edith Tiempo has explored this concept of doubleness in her fiction. And always she uses irony in her Fiction"

-DR. CRISTINA PANTOJA HIDALGO
UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

"In Edith L. Tiempo's poetry, the poem as wrought from language extends the horizon of its words' light."

-DR. GEMINO HENSON ABAD
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS
AND THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS
CENTER FOR CREATIVE WRITING AND LITERARY STUDIES

Event poster

First UST Graduate School, RCSSED e-Forum on Adult Education tackles roles of PH higher education

The Family Literacy Team of the University of Santo Tomas spearheaded the 1st e-Forum on Adult Education 2020 held on September 3, 2020, via Zoom. The team's online activities were funded by the Global Challenges Research Funds (GCRF) which was awarded to Asst. Prof. Gina Lontoc, Ph.D. and Prof. Camilla Vizconde, Ph.D. for the research project titled, "*Family Literacy and Sustainable Development: How Can We Build on Indigenous Intergenerational Learning?*"

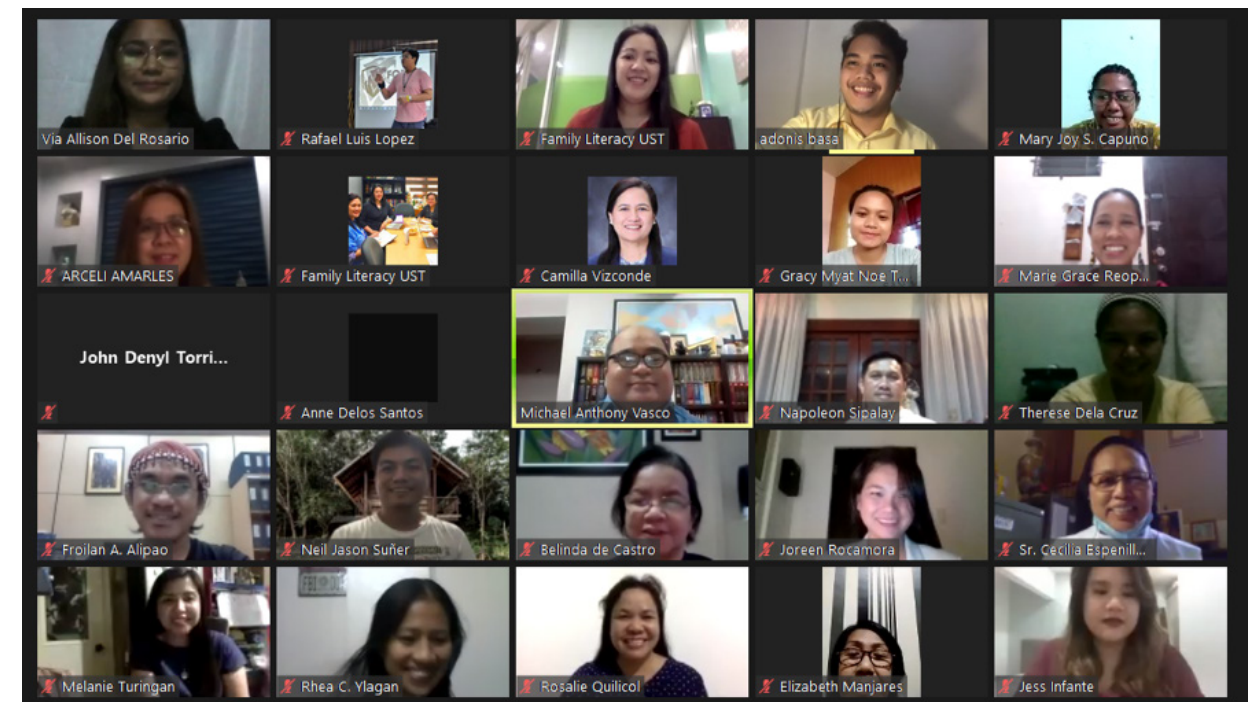
Around 60 participants from the USA, Nepal, Vietnam, UK, Myanmar, Italy, Germany, Taiwan, and the Philippines attended the forum which had for its theme, "Adult Literacy Programs and Family-Centered Practices in Community Building: Revisiting the Roles of Philippine Higher Education."

The first e-forum was in response to communities' challenges to provide access to education, whether formal or non-formal, to all members of the society. Thus,

the Graduate School of the University of Santo Tomas, in partnership with the Asia-Pacific Dominican Promoters of Justice, Peace & Care of Creation, the UST Research Center for Social Sciences and Education (RCSSED) and the UNESCO Chair in Adult Literacy and Learning for Social Transformation at the University of East Anglia, organized this event to raise debates on the changing landscapes of adult literacy, the drivers of change and its challenges. It also highlighted how adult literacy programs have become instrumental in supporting families and strengthening communities.

Dominican Province of the Philippines Prior Provincial Very Rev. Fr. Napoleon Sibalay, Jr., O.P., gave his welcome message. Asia-Pacific Dominican Promoters of Justice, Peace & Care of Creation Chairperson Rev. Fr. Victor Calvo, Jr., O.P., also delivered his welcome message.

ADULT EDUCATION TO PAGE 14



Participants of the e-Forum include Dominican Province of the Philippines Prior Provincial Very Rev. Fr. Napoleon Sibalay, Jr., O.P. (third row, fourth from left), International Justice Promoter from Dominican Sisters International Sister Cecilia Espenilla, O.P., (fourth row, rightmost), UST GS Dean Prof. Michael Anthony Vasco, Ph.D. (third row, center), UST RCSSED Director Prof. Belinda de Castro, Ph.D., (fourth row, center) and UST SIMBAHAYAN Director Asst. Prof. Froilan Alipao (fourth row, leftmost), among many others.

GCRF-UST
Family Literacy Postgraduate Online Events

E-FORUM 1: SEPTEMBER 3, 2020
(3:00PM - 5:00PM) MANILA TIME

Adult literacy programs and family-centered practices in community building: Revisiting the roles of Philippine Higher Education

Guest:
Professor Anna Robinson-Pant, PhD
UNESCO Chair in Adult Literacy and Learning for Social Transformation, University of East Anglia, United Kingdom

TALK: "Family literacy as a pathway to lifelong learning"

PANEL DISCUSSION
Programs promoting adult literacy and family-centered practices in Philippine Higher Education

Arceli M. Amarles, Ph.D.
Philippine Normal University

Ma. Joahna Mante-Estacio, Ph.D.
De La Salle University

Asst. Prof. Froilan Alipao
University of Santo Tomas

Grace Reoperez, Ph.D.
University of the Philippines

For Inquiries: familyliteracy.ust@gmail.com Register here: <http://tiny.cc/familyliteracy> Zoom Link: <http://tiny.cc/eforum1>

e-Forum poster

UNESCO Adult Literacy and Learning for Social Transformation Chair, Prof. Anna Robinson-Pant, Ph.D., delivered her talk on the theme, "Family literacy as a pathway to lifelong learning." She emphasized the need to strengthen the role of the Higher Education sector in reimagining the landscape of education, veering away from the traditional face-to-face learning to digital or learning online. She also added that Higher Education Institutions must learn to communicate in different ways, particularly in advocating intergenerational learning. She further emphasized that lifelong learning is the integration of learning and living, and is for people of all ages, and may be conducted in a variety of modalities.

Presentations from various Higher Education institutions included discussions on the status of adult literacy programs implemented in the

respective universities of the panel discussants. They also talked about the challenges, issues, and future directions for adult education and intergenerational learning. Invited members of the panel were: Dr. Arceli M. Amarles of the Philippine Normal University, Dr. Ma. Joahna Mante-Estacio of De La Salle University, Dr. Grace Reoperez of University of the Philippines, and Asst. Prof. Froilan Alipao of the University of Santo Tomas.

The final presentation was delivered by UST Graduate School International Relations Coordinator Asst. Prof. Gina Lontoc, Ph.D., who is also the UST Family Literacy Team Project Lead. She explained the GCRF family literacy project and gave an overview of the upcoming online events. UST Graduate School Dean Prof. Michael Anthony Vasco, Ph.D., delivered the Closing Remarks.

UST Department of Filipino celebrates National Language Month with webinar series

The Department of Filipino celebrated the *Buwan ng Wika* (National Language Month) 2020 with a series of webinars centered on this year's theme, "*Wika ng Kasaysayan, Kasaysayan ng Wika: Ang mga Katutubong Wika sa Maka-Filipinong Bayanihan Kontra Pandemya*" (Language of History, History of Language: The Indigenous Languages Toward Filipino Bayanihan Against the Pandemic). The theme, given by the Commission on the Filipino Language aimed to promote "bayanihan", a Filipino term for "civic unity and cooperation", amidst the pandemic by ensuring that the Filipino people have access to information and can participate in the discussions about COVID-19 through the national language, Filipino, and other indigenous languages.

In his opening remarks, UST Filipino Department Chair Asst. Prof. Alvin Ringgo C. Reyes, mentioned that the series of webinars was only the beginning of a stronger

"bayanihan" between the Department of Filipino and the wider community of Filipino teachers, researchers and policy-makers as the Department pursues more endeavors that will facilitate the sharing of expertise on Filipino language and culture.

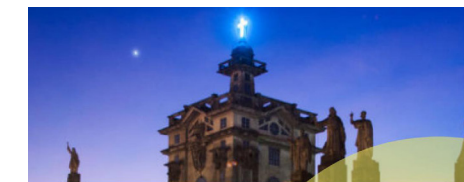
Opening the series on August 24, 2020 was UST Center for Translation and Translation Studies Chair Asst. Prof. Wennielyn F. Fajilan, Ph.D., who discussed "*Pagsasalang Teknikal Bilang Tugon sa COVID-19: Ang Papel ng Pagsasalin sa Panahon ng Pandemya*" (Technical Translation as a Response to COVID-19: The Role of Translation in the Time of Pandemic). Aside from sharing the protocol of the Center in doing technical translations, she also talked about the impact of COVID-19 on translation works, nationally and globally, which she classified as a form of "crisis translation."

Being a public health concern, translation, according to Fajilan, also plays a

crucial role in times of pandemic as it enables the people to understand the causes, symptoms, precautions and treatments for a disease, thereby empowering them to safeguard their health and ensuring the effectiveness of efforts for disease control and prevention.

Research Center for Social Sciences and Social Health Studies Education Lead Asst. Prof. Ma. Carinnes P. Alejandria, Ph.D., and Coalition for People's Right to Health Co-Convener Dr. Joshua L. San Pedro discussed on August 26, 2020, "*Walang Iwanán: Ang Pangangalaga sa mga Bulnerableng Sektor sa Panahon ng Pandemya*" (No One Left Behind: Caring for the Vulnerable Sectors in the Time of Pandemic). She shared her long years of research as an anthropologist in Baseco, Manila and how the different sectors of the

NATIONAL LANGUAGE MONTH TO PAGE 18



Unibersidad ng Santo Tomas
Departamento ng Filipino

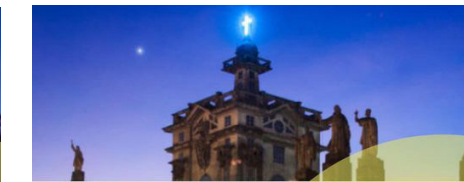
PAGSASALING TEKNIKAL BÍLANG TUGON SA COVID-19: ANG PAPEL NG PAGSASALIN SA PANAHOON NG PANDEMYA

Agosto 24, 2020
4:00-5:00 nh



Dr. Wennielyn F. Fajilan
Tagapangulo
Sentro sa Salin at Araling Salin
Unibersidad ng Santo Tomas

#USTBuwanNgWikazozo



Unibersidad ng Santo Tomas
Departamento ng Filipino

WALANG IWANÁN: ANG PANGANGALAGA SA MGA BULNERABLENG SEKTOR SA GITNA NG PANDEMYA

Agosto 26, 2020,
4:00-5:30 nh

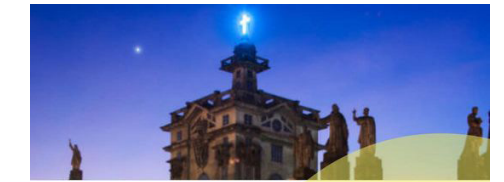


Dr. Ma. Carinnes P. Alejandria
Lead, Social Health Studies
Research Center for Social Sciences
and Education
Unibersidad ng Santo Tomas



Dr. Joshua L. San Pedro
Co-convener
Coalition for People's Right to Health

#USTBuwanNgWikazozo



Unibersidad ng Santo Tomas
Departamento ng Filipino

ANG SAYSAY NG PANITIKAN SA PANDEMYA

Agosto 28, 2020,
4:00-5:30 nh



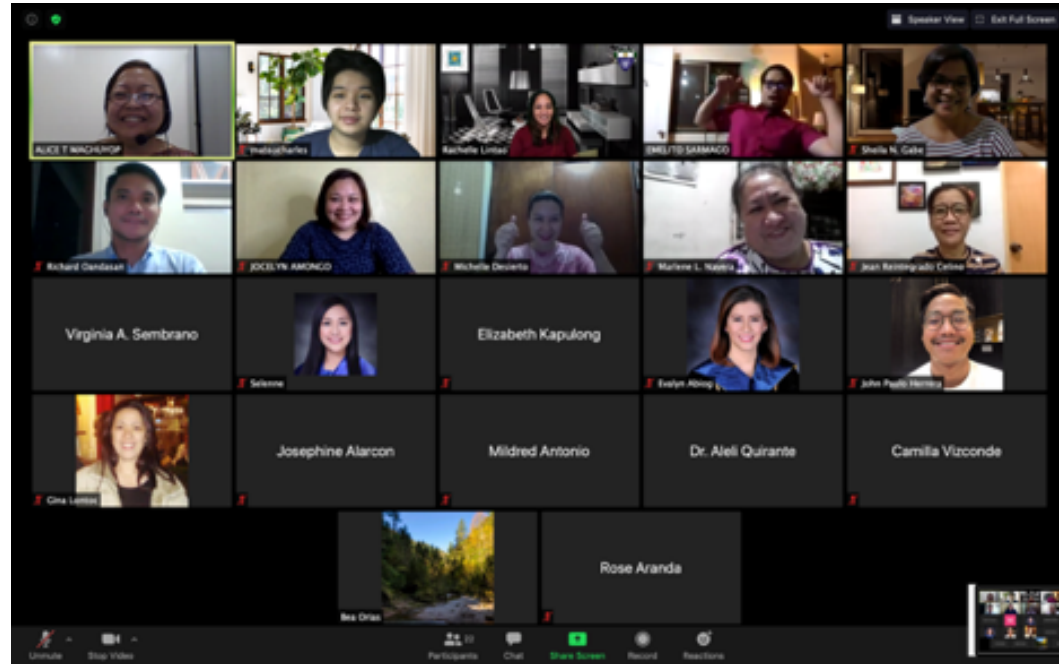
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#USTBuwanNgWikazozo

Maghuyop talks about 'Communication Technology and COVID-19' at English Dept. Online Lecture Series



Webinar speaker Dr. Maghuyop, (first row, leftmost), English Department Chair Dr. Lintao (first row, third from left), and some of the faculty members who attended the webinar

Citing the term "global village" introduced by communication theorist and English professor Marshall McLuhan, Assoc. Prof. Alice T. Maghuyop, Ph.D., talked about "Communication Technology and COVID-19" in an online lecture held on August 27, 2020, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Maghuyop's presentation, attended by faculty members, was part of the faculty development program of the UST Department of English.

Maghuyop presented the prediction of McLuhan, a philosopher and a visionary, who in 1964 wrote about the "global village" stating that digital technology would keep people connected across the world. With the current health crisis brought by COVID-19 that displaced the Philippines together with the rest of the world, Maghuyop shared McLuhan's

prediction of communicating through the use of technology in education and in the workplace. She related that McLuhan's ideas could be effectively applied in teaching Purposive Communication.

UST English Department Chair Rachele B. Lintao, Ph.D., who acted as moderator, also introduced the speaker. Previous speakers include Arts and Letters Assistant Dean Dr. Alejandro Bernardo, Dr. Andres Julio Santiago, Jr., Dr. Rosalyn Mirasol, Ms. Elizabeth Kapulong, and Atty. Selenne Leynes.

The online lecture series, which formally opened in May 2020, has been organized by the UST English Department to serve as a forum for its faculty members to share their best practices, contribute ideas for instructional content, and impart findings from their research studies.

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS
FACULTY OF ARTS AND LETTERS
Department of English

Faculty Development
Special Lecture Series

"Communication Technology and COVID-19"
Dr. Alice T. Maghuyop
August 27, 2020 (Thursday)
6:00-7:00 PM
via Zoom

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Thomasians celebrate Season of Creation 2020 with Community Service Day



UST Vice Rector for Religious Affairs Rev. Fr. Pablo T. Tiong, O.P., speaks on the encyclical "Laudato Si."

As part of the advocacy on social transformation among the students, support staff, alumni, faculty members, and University partner communities, institutions, and Dominican networks, the UST SIMBAHAYAN Community Development Office (UST SIMBAHAYAN) biannually conducts a Community Service Day. It is an event rooted in the promotion of environmental sustainability and action with a proactive response to the call of Pope Francis' in *Laudato Si*.

This year, the Community Service Day titled "*Araw ng Paglilingkod sa Panahon ng Paglikha 2020*" with the theme "*Hubileo Para sa Daigdig: Pagtalab at Pagtugon sa Pagpapanumbalik ng Sangnilikha*" was held on National Heroes Day, August 31, in collaboration with the AlerTomas Cluster composed of the the Faculty of Arts and Letters, Faculty of Engineering, College of Science, College of Architecture, Graduate School, and National Service Training Program (NSTP CWTS/LTS), the Dominican Family for Justice, Peace, and

Care for Creation – Philippines (DFJPPC), and the Fellowship for the Care of Creation Association Inc. (FCCA). This also served as the launch of the activities for the Season of Creation that took place starting September 1 until October 11, 2020, Indigenous People's Sunday.

The Season of Creation was introduced by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) Permanent Council in 2003 to celebrate the Creation Day and Creation Time in affirmation to the CBCP's first Pastoral Letter on Ecology and Environment, "What is Happening to Our Beautiful Land." This was echoed again in the July 2019 Pastoral Letter, "An Urgent Call for Ecological Conversion, Hope in the Face of Climate Emergency."

According to the Global Catholic Climate Movement – *Pilipinas*, a global, grass-roots movement of Catholics committed to living out the message of *Laudato Si'*: On the Care of Our Common Home, "This is a time to allow our common home to rest from our throw-away culture, our addiction to consumption, to unlimited

economic growth and to the dirty and deadly fossil fuels. This is a time to create, develop and nurture a new mindset, a paradigm shift anchored in the interconnectedness and interrelatedness of everything."

Despite the limitations in conducting community development and advocacy activities in compliance with and observance of the safety measures in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, the UST SIMBAHAYAN remained resilient in its plan to hold the event by shifting to an online engagement through a virtual seminar.

The webinar was formally opened by an opening ritual led by Ms. Mylene Saluta of FCCAI. This was followed by the warm opening remarks of the UST SIMBAHAYAN Director Asst. Prof. Froilan Alipao, and the Justice, Peace, and Care for Creation Promoter of the Dominican Philippine Province, Inc., Rev. Fr. Victor C. Calvo, O.P. They both stressed the importance of individual, collective, and institutional efforts as praxis in the care for our common home as humans and the environment are interdependent with each other.

The first speaker was the UST Vice Rector for Religious Affairs Rev. Fr. Pablo T. Tiong, O.P. who discussed the topic *Laudato Si: Mula sa Pananaw ng Simbahan at Pananampalataya*. His talk highlighted Pope Francis' second encyclical letter, which is about love and concern for the poor, which must lead to an ecological conversion towards a Christian Normal.

The second speaker was Bro. Jaazeal "Tagoy" Jakosalem, OAR with the topic on *Laudato Si: Mula sa Perspektibong Pastoral na Pakikisangkot*. His presentation delved on the seven *Laudato Si* Goals and the suggested responses to these challenges.

The event highlighted the structural change in product consumption and every person's ability to protect the environment. Furthermore, environmental degradation

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does not stem from marginalized communities or user consumption, but from the capitalist system targeting these potential markets.

Aside from the talks, a significant part of the event was the Pledge of Commitment for the Care of Our Common Home led by the Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines Very Rev. Fr. Napoleon B. Sipalay, Jr., O.P. Committing their pledges were UST Vice Rector for Religious Affairs Rev. Fr. Pablo T. Tiong, O.P.; Justice, Peace, and Care for Creation Promoter of the Dominican Philippine Province, Inc., Rev. Fr. Victor C. Calvo, O.P.; Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Fellowship for the Care of Creation Association, Inc., Rev. Fr. Angelito Cortez, OFM; UST SIMBAHAYAN Director Asst. Prof. Froilan A. Alipao, MCD; UST Central Student Council President, Mr. Robert Dominic Gonzales, RPh, and the Samahang Kamanlalakbay President Mrs. Merlita B. De Guzman.

An estimate of 220 participated in the webinar from the different academic units and departments of the University, partner communities, institutions, and networks such as the Juan Luna Elementary School, among others, representatives of different religious congregations, and university/school members of *Laudato Si* Philippines. The creative publicity material was developed by Mrs. Charmaine Joie Buena-Castillo, RPh, a Facilitator of National Service Training Program (NSTP).

The Jubilee of the Season of Creation runs from September until October 11, 2020 as there are upcoming events prepared by the AlerTomas Cluster and the UST SIMBAHAYAN Community Development Office.



Webinar Poster

NATIONAL LANGUAGE MONTH FROM PAGE 15

said community, such as the youth, elderly and women – already suffering prior to the pandemic – are suffering even more now that sources of livelihood and access to healthcare are limited. While the community is trying to be resilient, Alejandria voiced the support that Baseco residents need help from the local and national governments to ensure that they could cope with the crisis.

Meanwhile, San Pedro, also a medical frontliner at the Philippine General Hospital, provided medical and statistical updates on COVID-19 and suggested ways on how the healthcare system could be strengthened to ensure that sufficient healthcare could be given to Filipinos who are vulnerable to the disease. He also emphasized the role of language in ensuring transparency and

accountability in times of the pandemic as this enables the people to understand policies and actions, and to demand the necessary action from the government.

Faculty of Arts and Letters Creative Writing Program Coordinator Asst. Prof. Joselito D. Delos Reyes, Ph.D., and Department of Filipino faculty member Mark Anthony S. Angeles, discussed the last topic in the webinar series, “*Ang SAYSAY ng Panitikan sa Pandemya*” (The Value of Literature in Pandemic) on August 28, 2020. In his talk, Delos Reyes identified the pandemic of disinformation and ignorance being perpetrated amidst the pandemic of COVID-19 through social media. He encouraged the audience, mostly teachers, to counter this by encouraging their students

LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

to create meaningful creative pieces that they may be popularized through the said platform. Social media is even more relevant now that education in the country has shifted to online.

Angeles added to this by encouraging participants to be not only creators, but also critics who will ensure that literature is not employed for misinformation and historical revisionism and collectors who will compile the richness of words and writings that have emerged in the time of pandemic.

The series of webinars was broadcast through the official Facebook page of the UST Department of Filipino and had a reach of approximately 42,000 accumulated viewers.

Eng’g alumnus produces additional LISA robots for more hospitals

Civil Engineer-businessman Jerenato (Jerry) Alfante is adding more Logistic Indoor Service Assistant (LISA) telepresence robots in hospitals to help protect medical frontliners by producing them in his own company. Upon the invitation of Dean Philipina A. Marcelo, Ph.D., of the Faculty of Engineering, he visited the University of Santo Tomas in April 2020, at the height of the COVID pandemic. He saw the initial LISA robot that was invented for hospital use by faculty member Anthony James Bautista, Ph.D., a Mechanical Engineer.

With Bautista’s expertise in robotics, producing LISA robots has become a project of the Faculty in response to the COVID pandemic. Its objective is to minimize face-to-face interaction between the medical practitioner and the patient, thereby protecting the medical frontliners.

Alfante, who graduated in 1984, is president and CEO of Macro Wiring Technologies, Co. Inc. Having been president of the UST Engineering Alumni Association, he saw his possible role in the undertaking.

However, Alfante was aware of these two realities: the logistics needed to produce more robots, and the speed of the spread of the virus as shown by rising cases being reported daily by the Department of Health. This means that more frontliners will have to deal with more patients but at the same time, they also have to be protected from COVID. He is no stranger to frontliners’ needs having a nurse for a daughter, Kathleen, the Nursing Director at a health facility in California, USA.

Using his personal funds, this socio-civic oriented Thomasian took on to research, after being given Bautista’s nod

to innovate its original design. Alfante designed his version of the LISA robots depending on the function needed by its recipient hospitals.

The first LISA robots that were produced by the Faculty of Engineering were given to the UST Hospital and a hospital in Pasig, and then after that, the project received a grant from the Department of Science and Technology.

The original specifications of the robot designed by Bautista included the following features: one speed, and operated on 6V battery/6 V motors. Alfante’s innovation resulted in a two-speed robot with High and Low options running on 12V battery/ 12V motors. With a 12 V battery, the robot could run for as long as 20 hours. Instead of a tablet, he decided to use an Android phone because it is capable of a louder sound. He also added a cable from the

LISA ROBOT TO PAGE 21



(From left:) Engr. Alfante, Dr. Bautista, and Dean Marcelo with the Logistic Indoor Service Assistant (LISA) telepresence robot

The Office of Civil Defense receives the Food Tray version of the LISA robot from Engr. Alfante (2nd from left).

ARTS AND CULTURE

Minecraft is Nobleza's ally in providing Thomasians with UST traditions



A preview of the proposed campus design for the upcoming Paskuhan celebrations [Photo courtesy of @minecraft_ust's Twitter account]

Charles Benedict Nobleza, a second-year student of the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Institute of Information and Computing Sciences, has been a Minecraft player since he was a child. But he was able to put into good use his creativity and skill when he decided to build a Minecraft map of UST to serve as a means for the freshmen of Academic Year 2020-2021 to see the campus, albeit virtually, especially for those setting foot on it for the first time, and for them not to miss out on long-held UST traditions, the Welcome Walk in particular.

"The pandemic has cost us a lot in terms of celebrating our traditions," said Nobleza in an online interview, adding "So I took action to continue our yearly traditions in a different and virtual approach."

Through the sandbox video game Minecraft, Nobleza — who has been playing the game for over eight years already — was determined to give these new students at least a virtual experience of the Welcome Walk, a tradition since 2002 where freshmen symbolically enter the University through the historic Arch of the Centuries to signify the beginning of their Thomasian life.

After gathering a team of 80 Thomasians through sending out a recruitment tweet, the Minecraft UST team took two months to painstakingly reconstruct the 21.5-hectare Manila campus in a Minecraft server dedicated to that purpose. With members from the different academic units and even alumni divided into smaller groups of "Builders, Assistants, Interior

Designers, Floor Planners, and even Small Details," each team member had their role.

Led by Nobleza and through real-time communication in the Discord messaging application, the group meticulously worked together with keen attention to detail, to give their target audience the very same view of UST that any Thomasian could see in real life. From the iconic large yellow letters forming 'UST' in the Olympic-size pool to the life-size 'UST' standing letters and Tiger figure in the Plaza Mayor.

"We tried to ensure [the correctness of the structures] by using other programs that do an accurate ratio of buildings in real life. We also have our fellow College of Architecture students to help and one

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MINECRAFT FROM PAGE 20

of them was Francpoe Javin Dalangin, a second-year student. He is our Master Builder and the one who corrected the scales of the buildings," shared the 19-year old Nobleza.

Aside from making sure that the virtual structures look alike with the real-life counterparts, immersive features were added as well. Students can have their game avatar wear their respective college uniform and use the ID system to enter the buildings, as usually done in real life.

Since its first version in 2009, Minecraft has firmly established itself as a creative and collaborative medium. Minecraft has its appeal of easy-to-grasp gameplay, open sandbox world, and multiple modes of play; people of all ages have come to enjoy its blocky 3D world.

It is this kind of functional flexibility from which the Minecraft UST team benefitted. For Nobleza in particular, "the creativity it gives to its players and the vibes of being in an alternate universe, especially in a virtual game," was what made him interested in the game. His background as an Information Technology student was also advantageous in leading the virtual

reconstruction effort.

"[The process of] implementing new ways of experiencing our tradition in the field of technology, having it through a game also helped me learn [more about] some aspects of programming as well as design," said Nobleza.

Thanks to the Minecraft UST team, the Thomasian freshmen explored the iconic structures of the reconstructed Manila campus in a two-hour virtual campus tour. Each academic unit had its own schedule with synchronous streaming of the tour available through the UST Tiger TV Facebook page.

Shortly after the media attention that the UST Minecraft map got, Nobleza's team already floated the idea of a virtual UST Paskuhan experience. There had been Minecraft versions of the towering 70-foot Christmas tree beside the UST Grandstand with the famous fireworks display that adds color to the UST skyline. With Nobleza and his co-Minecraft enthusiasts at the helm, the Thomasian community will continue to experience decades-long Thomasian traditions in virtual reality, as part of the so-called new normal.



Minecraft UST Founder Charles Benedict Nobleza from the Institute of Information and Computing Sciences



Master Builder Francpoe Javin Dalangin from the College of Architecture

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

LISA ROBOT FROM PAGE 19

unit to the cellphone. It weighs six kilos without a battery.

Now with 20 LISA robots produced in his factory located at the Cavite Economic Zone, Alfante, who quickly adds that he used his personal funds to finance the production of these robots, was able to donate them to the following hospitals: V. Luna Medical Center, Quezon City (two units); Office of Civil Defense (OCD), COVID Facility Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City (one unit) and one unit Food Tray Robot that can bring as many as ten trays at a time; Santo Nino Hospital, Baguio City, (four units); Pampanga Medical Specialist Hospital, Pampanga, (one unit); Sarangani Bay Specialist Medical Center, General Santos City (one unit); and Chinese General Hospital, Manila (one unit). Deliveries were made between June to September.

There are also LISA robots that are scheduled to be delivered to hospitals in the south and in the United States pending availability of flight schedules to: Butuan Medical Center, Butuan City (two units); Agusan Del Norte Provincial Hospital, Agusan del Norte (one unit); Democrito O. Plaza Memorial Hospital, Agusan del Sur (one unit); and Jurupa Hills Post Acute Nursing Home, California, USA (two units).

Alfante's advocacy to provide protection to medical frontliners has now reached even the farthest provinces in the country, particularly in Mindanao. He has no plans yet to stop this humanitarian act. This Thomasian has indeed extended the efforts of his alma mater to send the message to the medical frontliners that the University is one with them in the fight against COVID.



Interior Design team member Loren Lacasandile from the College of Nursing



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