



THE ACADEMIA

Official International Bulletin of the University of Santo Tomas

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*Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!*





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UST remains in top 200 in 2021 QS Asian University Rankings



In the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Asian University Rankings 2021 edition, the University of Santo Tomas remains in the Top 200 universities in Asia, 4th in Philippine Universities, and continues to perform consistently among the top 29% in the QS Asian University Rankings.

Thirteen other Philippine universities, aside from UST joined the top 650 with the University of the Philippines leading the list of Philippine universities. The other universities included in the 2021

edition are: Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University, University of San Carlos, Ateneo de Davao University, Mapúa University, Siliman University, Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology, Adamson University, Central Luzon State University, Central Mindanao University, Central Philippine University, and Xavier University.

As of this 2021 edition, there are 650 published institutions and 106 new entrants represented by 18 different locations in Asia. This year's ranking has been constructed using 11 indicators, including Academic reputation (30%), Employer reputation (20%), Faculty-student ratio (10%), International research network (10%), Citations per paper (10%), Papers per faculty (5%), Staff with a PhD (5%), International faculty (2.5%), International students (2.5%), Inbound exchange students (2.5%), and Outbound exchange students (2.5%).

"The methodology used to create the ranking is similar to that used for the QS World University Rankings, but with some additional indicators and adapted weightings," QS explained on its website. According to QS, the set of criteria was developed in consultation with regional experts and stakeholders, and was "designed to reflect key priorities for universities in Asia, drawing on as much available data as possible." Quacquarelli Symonds is a global higher education think tank. Released annually since 2009, the QS Asia University Rankings highlights the top universities in Asia each year.

"Based on the analysis that we made in the absence of QS Data Analytics in last year's ranking results, which is still applicable to the latest 2021 edition ranking results, in the past three years, the 'all responses' significantly improved from 60 in 2018 and 106 in 2019 up to 157 in 2020," explained Engr. Nestor R. Ong, deputy director of THE Rankings Office, the office that is responsible for directing and monitoring the efforts of the various sectors of the University vis-à-

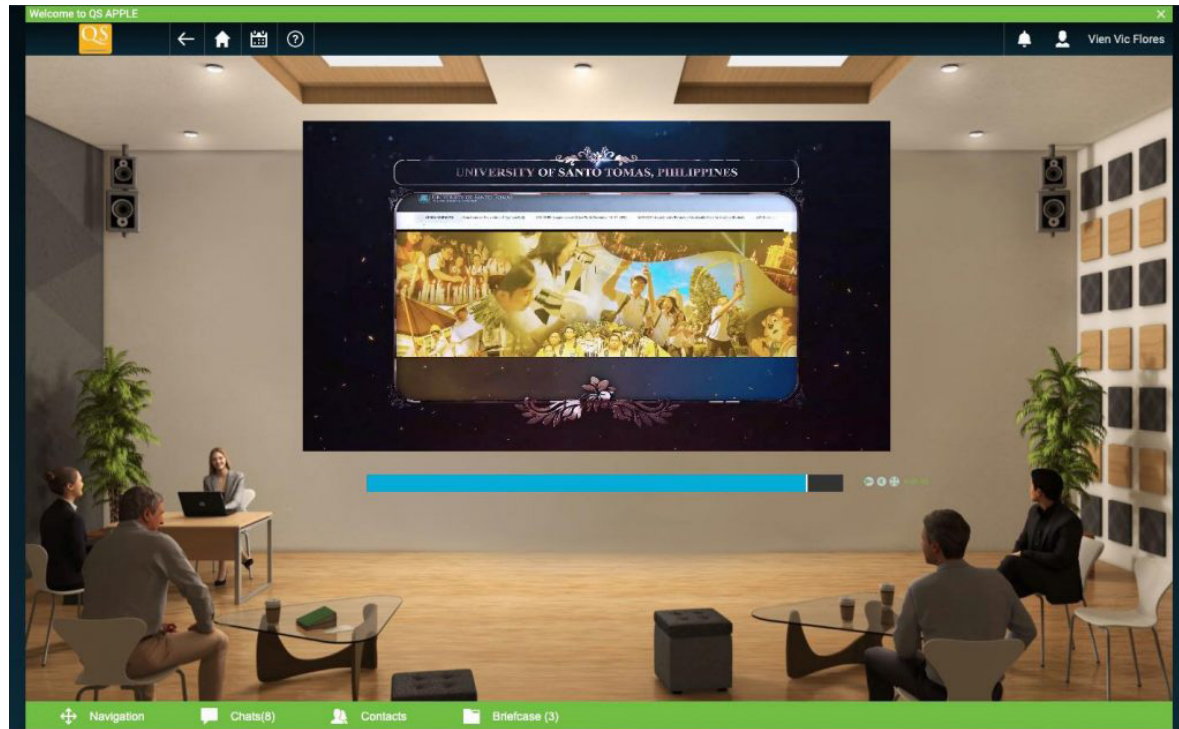
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UST website wins bronze in QS award for Best International Website Page



The members of the QS Apple Conference view the UST website.

The University of Santo Tomas website won the Bronze Award for Best International Website Page in the virtual 2020 Quacquarelli-Symonds (QS) APPLE Conference, marking the third time that the platform was recognized by QS.

Managed by the Communications Bureau's Online Section, the website recently transitioned to a new design with added security and functionalities. It contains various information about the University, ranging from its policies and procedures, to its programs and undertakings. It is also in the process of developing the pages for the University's varied advocacies and community development efforts.

The team responsible for the website is composed of Communications Bureau Director Rev. Fr. Christopher Jeffrey L. Aytona, O.P., Assistant Director for Online Philippe Jose S. Hernandez, Website Supervisor Mar Christian Darren C. Ramos, Support Staff Ruby A. Atienza, Writer Hans Lawrence V. Malgapu, and Graphic Designer Rommel G. Rivera.

UST was represented in the QS APPLE Conference by QS/THE Rankings Deputy Director Nestor R. Ong, ASEAN Engr., QS/THE Rankings Office Staff Vien Vic G. Flores, and International Relations and Programs Associate Director Karen S. Santiago, PhD.

2021 QS ASIAN UNIVERSITY RANKING FROM PAGE 1

vis the standards of the QS University Rankings.

"Therefore, let us continue with all our efforts to draw out the strengths of our University despite the pandemic, as well as the potential opportunities to improve in our future performance. Our University should continuously work together toward stronger international research collaboration, more international presence in global academic engagement/activities, more virtual networking strategies to build new contacts, and more data-driven actions and plans," Ong added.

QS/THE Rankings Office, OIRP represent UST at Virtual QS APPLE Conference, Exhibition 2020

QS/THE Rankings Deputy Director Engr. Nestor R. Ong, PIE, ASEAN Engr., together with Office of International Relations and Programs Associate Director Prof. Karen S. Santiago, PhD and QS/THE Rankings Office Assistant Mr. Vien Vic G. Flores attended the three-day Virtual QS APPLE Conference and Exhibition held from November 25 to 27, 2020. The virtual conference theme was "New Global Partnerships for Resilience and Climate Action."

Together with the delegates, the QS Intelligence Unit (QSIU) Events Team envisioned a new path for New Global Higher Education Partnerships for Resilience and Climate Action: a world where higher education can collaborate to tackle and address some of the world's most pressing issues.

The delegates listened to over 70 speakers, leaders and change-makers from different generations, backgrounds and aspirations. With this year's conference theme, the delegates were called to action to empower the world's future leaders in pursuit of a new reality. Over three days, cutting-edge plenaries, dialogues, debates and roundtables highlighted the capacity of higher education to shape policy responses to the pandemic; to disrupt old ways of thinking; and to prepare for a post-COVID world.

UST joined Philippine delegates from 20 Philippine universities that included Ateneo de Davao University, Batangas State University, Benguet State University, Centro Escolar University, Cagayan State University, Cebu Technological University, Cavite State University, Far Eastern University, Holy Angel University, Lyceum of the Philippines University-Batangas, Lyceum of the Philippines University-Cavite, Lyceum of the Philippines University-Laguna, Mapúa University, Mariano Marcos State University, MSU-Iligan Institute of Technology, Tarlac Agricultural University, University of Mindanao, University of the Philippines, West Visayas State University, and University of Mindanao-Davao City.

More than 30 delegates from the Philippines attended the conference.

Meanwhile, UST was tapped by the Commission of Higher Education-International Affairs (CHED-IAS) to make the video on Philippine Higher Education Institution's (PHL HEIs) Internationalization Programs of the aforementioned participating Philippine universities. This video was showcased in the CHED Exhibition Booth.

Ong, who is the country's sole member of the QS-APPLE International Academic Advisory Conference Committee (IAAC), chaired the Breakout Session on Track 5: "Mission-Led Leadership in All Seasons." He received an excellent commendation from the presenters and co-presenters under the said track.

In a related development, the University of Santo Tomas website, which is managed by the Communication Bureau's Online Section, won the Bronze Award for the Best International Website Page among the 23 nominees in the virtual 2020 Quacquarelli Symonds APPLE Conference, marking the third time that the platform was recognized by QS. It was the third bronze award for

UST in the category. The UST website won it in 2015 and 2018.

Ong commented that, "The changes to our website provided a new look to suit the taste and level of international standards."

Moreover, UST was nominated to the QS Creative Awards under the categories Best International Student Recruitment Brochure, and Most Creative Corporate Institution Video.

It was also in the same conference that QS released the 2021 World University Rankings: Asia region, which highlighted the ways in which the region's higher education sector is changing. Fourteen Philippine universities joined the list of ASIA's top 650 universities in the region with an impressive increase of seven universities from the Philippines.

The QS Stars Awards for Asia Pacific is under the QSIU's QS Stars Rating System. The QS Stars Rating System evaluates higher education institutions against a range of performance indicators across several categories and pre-established

VIRTUAL QS APPLE CONFERENCE TO PAGE 5



Ong chairs the break-out session

Fr. Bolo is appointed Socius of the Master of the Order for Apostolic Life



Fr. Bolo

Rev. Fr. Florentino A. Bolo, Jr., O.P., JCD, rejoined the General Curia of the Order of Preachers. Effective November 22, 2020, he was appointed the Socius of the Master of the Order for Apostolic Life and now reports directly to the Master of the Order and UST Chancellor Very Rev. Fr. Gerard Francisco P. Timoner, III, O.P. at the Convent of Santa Sabina in Rome.

Fr. Bolo was previously appointed to the General Curia by the preceding Master of the Order Very Rev. Fr. Bruno Cadoré, O.P., M.D., as the General Promoter of Priestly Fraternities of the Order of Preachers.

The UST Quadricentennial Secretary-General, Fr. Bolo, most recently served as the Vice-Rector of UST Central Seminary and the Director of the UST Institute of Religion.

Fr. Bolo completed his Doctorate in Canon Law degree at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas (the Angelicum), Rome in 2016, while his Licentiate in Canon Law, Bachelor in Sacred Theology, and Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology degrees were obtained at the University of Santo Tomas.

Two-Month mentorship program on Family Literacy, Intergenerational Learning ends

The UST Family Literacy Team composed of Project Lead Asst. Prof. Gina Lontoc, Ph.D., and her co-researchers Prof. Camilla Vizconde and Prof. Belinda de Castro initiated a mentorship program on Family Literacy and Intergenerational Learning to provide a space for participants to share ideas, develop new skills to support families and contribute to the empowerment of community members. It also sought to discuss issues relating to families and the wider community.

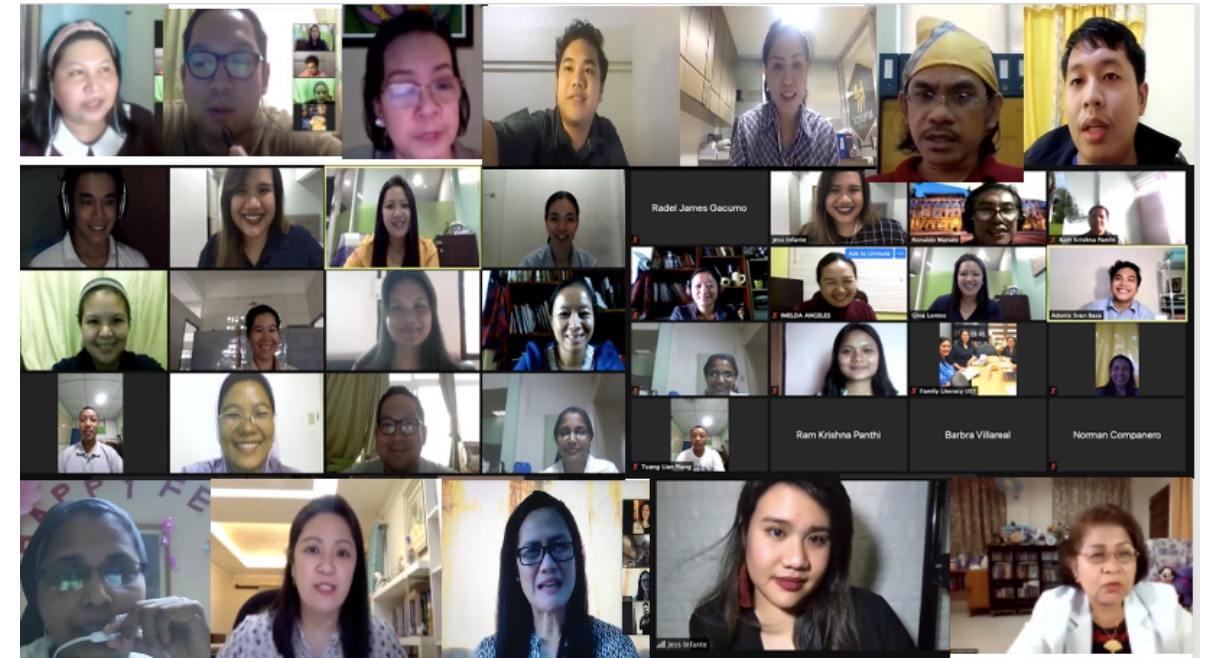
The program had 47 mentees, both local and international, who signed up for the mentorship program, and was completed in two months, from October to November, and was held every Thursday from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

Each synchronous session had taken two hours and had been delivered via the online conferencing tool Google Meet/Zoom. Both mentors and mentees accessed session materials such as texts for offline reading, weblinks, practice exercises, participants' outputs, and discussion boards via a learning management system.

Twelve mentors facilitated the mentorship program: Evalyn Abiog, Ph.D., Froilan Alipao, MCD, Imelda Angeles, CPA, Ph.D., Gina Lontoc, Ph.D., Ronaldo Manalo, Ph.D., Melanie Turingan, Ph.D., and Camilla Vizconde, Ph.D., of the University of Santo Tomas; Rosalie Quilicol and Grace Reoperez, Ph.D. of the University of the

FAMILY LITERACY TO PAGE 5

FAMILY LITERACY FROM PAGE 4



Dean Dr. Camilla Vizconde (fifth row, third from left) and Graduate School International Relations Coordinator Dr. Gina Lontoc (fifth row, second from left)

Philippines; Therese Amita dela Cruz of the Asian Psychological Services and Assessment Corp.; Christopher Millora of the University of East Anglia; and Rev. Fr. Reynor Munsayac, O.P. of the Priory of the Our Lady of the Holy Rosary of Manaoag.

Integral to the mentorship program was the completion of the Logic Model in which the students were made aware of the concepts of inputs, outputs, and outcomes as a guiding principle in the execution of the mentees' literacy project in the community of their own choice using techniques and methods that they learned from the mentorship.

Some had even gone creative to prove their point, by espousing the idea of Family Literacy and Intergenerational Literacy through poetry. Ms. Bernadine Ann V. Obial in her poetry, mentioned that, "In the end, I realized that solution comes from (a) collective decision and action. I found the power to become part of a bigger mission. To help transform the world into a place full of giving hands ready to lead and serve."

VIRTUAL QS APPLE CONFERENCE FROM PAGE 3

international standards. The Philippine HEI that was awarded four Stars was Mapúa University; and three Stars were: Batangas State University, Benguet State University, Cagayan State University, Central Luzon State University, Mariano Marcos State University, Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology, Visayas State University, and West Visayas State University.

UST is the first and only four stars for six consecutive years or two cycles from 2015 up to 2020. UST is on its renewal of QS Stars Certificate and is now under validation by QS London.

The conference reached close to 1,500 delegates from over 70 countries gathered across all platforms, and a global audience from around the world. The QS APPLE 2020 Virtual Conference and Exhibition, was the largest and most geographically diverse community in the QS Conference's 16-year history.

PSBMB recognizes Thomasian researchers Alejandro, Ysrael

The Philippine Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (PSBMB) recognized Prof. Dr. Grecebio Jonathan D. Alejandro and Prof. Mafel C. Ysrael, Ph.D. at its 47th Annual Convention that was held online from December 1 to 4, 2020.

Both Graduate School professors and Research Center for Natural and Applied Sciences researchers, Alejandro received the PSBMB 2020 Distinguished Research Award, while Ysrael received the 2020 PSBMB Education Award.

With the theme "Responding to Health and Environmental Issues through Biochemistry and Molecular Biology," the convention gathered together participants and research experts from different institutions for an academic exchange to learn the different approaches in dealing with the current pandemic, and other health and environmental issues.



Dr. Alejandro



Dr. Ysrael

Dayag of Accountancy is named Outstanding CPA in Education by PICPA



Dayag

UST Alfredo M. Velayo College of Accountancy faculty member Asst. Prof. Antonio J. Dayag, Ph.D., was named the 2020 Outstanding Certified Public Accountant in Education by the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The awarding ceremony took place on November 26, 2020, during the 75th PICPA Annual National Convention held online.

A multi-awarded professional, Dayag has contributed immensely to the practice of the accountancy profession as an educator, administrator, book author, reviewer, speaker, visiting scholar, and an active and dynamic promoter and supporter of the various activities and advocacies of the professional organizations in his field, locally and internationally.

Dayag, who completed his education in UST, from Bachelor's degree in Accountancy to Master's in Business Administration up to his Doctorate in Philosophy in Commerce, once served as the University's Chief Accountant from 1999 to 2005. He currently teaches Cost Accounting & Management Advisory Services at the University.

In addition to teaching, Dayag has co-authored books in Cost Accounting and authored "CPA Reviewer in Practical Accounting 2" and "Advanced Financial Accounting & Reporting."

He was awarded by the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants the "First PICPA Award for Accountancy Authors" in December 2018.

Accountancy juniors team emerges champion at 2020 SAP ERPsim competition



The UST team is announced as the Grand Winner.

A team of students in the junior year from the UST-Alfredo M. Velayo College of Accountancy, composed of Rich Anne A. Magsombol, Lian Mae C. Sulit and John Arden Aya Oabel, was hailed as the grand winner in the recently concluded SAP ERP Simulation Competition – Distribution Game held on November 20, 2020 via Zoom.

The competition was a business simulation for SAP ERP and SAP S/4HANA in which participants used a real ERP system to manage their virtual company in a competitive market. It consisted of three rounds with each round equivalent to running a business for 20 days. The goal of the first round was to maximize sales and minimize expenses. The second round was about inventory

management while the last round included sales forecasting.

The team with the highest company value after the three rounds was declared as winner. In the end, the UST team generated the highest company value and was hailed as champion, followed by the team from Asia Pacific University which landed second, and the team from the University of Cordillera which got the third place.

SAP stands for Systems Applications and Products in Data Processing, while ERP stands for Enterprise Resource Planning. SAP, by definition, is also the name of the ERP software as well as the name of the company. SAP Software, a European multinational company founded in 1972.

SAP, according to the website,

provides "future-proof Cloud ERP solutions that will power the next generation of business." With its advanced capabilities, SAP can boost the organization's efficiency and productivity by automating repetitive tasks, making better use of one's time, money and resources.

The 2020 SAP ERP Simulation Competition was organized by SAP University Alliance and facilitated by Victoria University, Melbourne Australia and hosted by SAP University Council Philippines. It was participated in by various student-teams from different colleges and universities in the country.

The UST team, coached by Ms. Rosalina L. Erece and Asst. Prof. Apollo D. Layug will compete against student teams from other countries in December 2020 for the SAP ERP Simulation Competition – Manufacturing Game.

RESEARCH

Maningas of Science, RCNAS is ‘2020 Filipino Faces of Biotechnology’



Dr. Maningas holds an interview. [Screen capture obtained from the “DA Biotech Program” Facebook page]

Dr. Maningas’ diagnostic kit [Screen capture obtained from the “DA Biotech Program” Facebook page]

College of Science faculty member and UST Research Center for Natural and Applied Sciences researcher Prof. Mary Beth B. Maningas, Ph.D., was chosen by the Department of Agriculture’s Biotechnology Program Office (DA-BPO) as one of the 2020 Filipino Faces of Biotechnology. Her inclusion was formally announced in a video released by the DA-BPO on November 26, 2020, during the 16th National Biotechnology Week.

Maningas was chosen for being “one of the outstanding Filipino individuals who have greatly contributed and played a significant role in the advancement of biotechnology in [the Philippines],” stated a letter from the Biotechnology Program

Director-Coordinator Annalyn Lopez, dated November 9, 2020.

Having authored pioneering international and local research studies in aquatic biotechnology, included among Maningas’s contributions is the creation of the “The Jamp Alert Kit” that can diagnose White Spot Syndrome Virus in shrimps. The kit is simple, affordable, time-efficient, and can be implemented onsite.

“I think I was able to start my record as a researcher and scientist in the country when I first got [DOST’s initial grant for shrimp biotechnology research]. It also opened the eyes of the University that a young scientist, a young Ph.D. graduate, can also obtain grants,” shared Maningas.

In-person awarding ceremonies will take place once health regulations permit.

Prof. Mary Beth B. Maningas, Ph.D., received the 2018 Tuklas Invention award

from the Technology Application and Promotion Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (TAPI-DOST) and Best Invention Medal from the International Federation of Inventors’ Association (IFIA).

In 2016, Maningas received the Newton Fund for Leaders in Innovation Fellowship from the Royal Academy of Engineering in London. In 2015, she received the Outstanding Research and Development Award and the Outstanding Scientific Paper Award from the National Academy of Science and Technology. She obtained her Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Marine Biosciences degree from the Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology.

Antibacterial hydrogel research wins Best Presentation at PAMET 2020

For their antibacterial hydrogel research, a team of UST Graduate School students under the supervision of their adviser Dr. Oliver Villaflores won Best Oral Presentation at the 2020 Research Forum of the Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (PAMET).

The team members, namely, Alvin Collera, Deo Lorenzo de Castro, Oliver Shane Dumaoal, Amapola Puaso, and Mark Raymund G. Nava, collaborated on their work titled “Nanosilver-Bentonite Composite for possible hydrogel applications: Synthesis, characterization, and antibacterial investigations.” All members of the group are Medical Technologists by profession and part of the Graduate School MedTech-Pharmacy Cluster, except for Collera, who works for the Department of Science and Technology and is taking up his Ph.D. in Chemistry under the Natural Sciences Cluster.

The two components were examined because many studies on silver and bentonite showed evidence of their individual antibacterial, healing, and biocompatibility properties, shared Nava in an email interview. He said that silver

was known for its low toxicity effects on human cells and its antibacterial activity, while bentonite (commonly known as Aztec Healing Clay) is used in facial masks and other beauty products.

“Biomaterials are constantly being developed and designed to produce for medical use. Although many of the currently used biomaterials have been recognized to be effective in their respective purposes, many of which are costly and difficult to prepare. The group felt the need to use natural biomaterials which are accessible, easy to procure and sustainable,” explained Nava, who said that they chose to pursue the topic upon the encouragement of their mentor, Dr. Villaflores.

The group found out that the synthesized Silver-Bentonite nanocomposite had antibacterial activity against a representative gram-positive bacteria (*Staphylococcus aureus*) and a representative gram-negative bacteria (*E. coli*). Nava clarified that the integration of the Silver-Bentonite nanocomposite to an agar-based matrix can inhibit the growth of microorganisms, suggesting its potential for agar hydrogel applications and the possibility of the nanocomposite as a

biomaterial for wound dressings.

Having been recognized for the “best oral presentation” despite the shift to an online medium, Nava was asked about the experience compared to in-person conferences. To this, he acknowledged that, “The experience of presenting our research online was something new to us, as all of us were more conversant with the traditional oral presentation.”

“However, online presentation allowed us to interact more with the audience since the research forum committee also allowed us to answer questions coming from the audience through the chat facility of the video conferencing application. With the online medium, we were also able to better solicit suggestions from our participants for our future research,” Nava explained.

“Beyond the applause audible in live in-person conferences, the online medium also allowed us to receive inspiring and motivating messages from our audience,” he added.

“We hope to continue our research after the pandemic to establish the potential of the biomaterial, Nanosilver-bentonite composite, for wound dressing,” said Nava.

Mark Nava (upper right) presents the research on behalf of his group.

The group’s certificate from PAMET

INTERNATIONALIZATION

UST Pharmacy joins International Research Network Initiative 2020



Event poster

Research presenters from UST

The Department of the Pharmacy under the UST Faculty of Pharmacy, led by its Dean Prof. Aleth Therese L. Dacanay, Ph.D., joined the International Research Network Initiative 2020, which was held virtually on December 2, 2020, organized by the Faculty of Pharmacy, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia.

This initiative will bring together the UST Faculty of Pharmacy, UiTM, and other partnering universities, which include Bandung Institute of Technology (Indonesia), Gadjah Mada University (Indonesia), and Mahidol University (Thailand), for an online research networking session and possible research collaboration.

The objectives of the International Research Network Initiative are: (1) to showcase research opportunities available at each participating university, i.e., international grants, facilities, services, postgraduate opportunities, student exchange, journals, and conferences/webinars, and (2) to form research interest groups comprising of experts in the areas of

chemistry, life sciences, pharmacy practice, pharmaceuticals, and pharmacology.

Research presenters from the UST Faculty of Pharmacy were: Dean Dacanay, Ph.D. (Practice of Pharmacy), Prof. Mary Jho-Anne T. Corpuz, Ph.D. (Pharmaceutical Chemistry), Prof. Ross D. Vasquez, Ph.D. (Life Sciences), Assoc. Prof. Agnes L. Castillo, Ph.D. (Pharmacology), Asst. Prof. Gina C. Castro, Ph.D. (Pharmaceutics), and Asst. Prof. Jay P. Jazul (Pharmacy Practice).

Faculty Secretary Asst. Prof. Renz Kenneth G. Cadiang, discussed the international grants, facilities, services, postgraduate opportunities, student exchange, journals, and conferences/webinars available in the university under the combined session.

The event was participated in by faculty members, researchers and postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students from the five institutions, including UST Graduate School Pharmacy and Medical Technology cluster.

LECTURE AND CONFERENCES

Education Dean Romero discusses UST's role as Catholic University at int'l conference



Dean Romero during her presentation

UST College of Education Dean Assoc. Prof. Pilar I. Romero, Ph.D., served as a plenary speaker on November 21, 2020 at the 13th International Congress of the Wyższa Szkoła Kultury Społecznej i Medialnej (WSKSiM) (College of Social and Media Culture) in Torun, Poland. The congress, held on November 20 and 21, 2020, had for its theme "Catholics and Education – Contemporary Challenges of Higher Education and Science."

The congress was conducted in honor of the memory of His Eminence Zenon Cardinal Grocholewski, former Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education. It would be remembered that the same Papal Legate graced the Eucharistic Celebration and delivered the homily during the University's quadricentennial founding anniversary held on January 28, 2011.

Warning against the "utilitarian type of education" or the tendency of education to be market-driven and homogenized and standardized, Dean Romero's paper, "The Wealth of the Catholic University in the Far East World in the Example of the

Pontifical and Royal University of Santo Tomas in Manila, the Catholic University of the Philippines," drew attention to the individual countermeasures needed to go against the threats of consumerism and materialism to authentic education.

The College of Education Dean emphasized that many Catholic educational institutions have agreed in the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC) that their roles are multiple. Catholic education institutions must: protect and strengthen the common values advocated by different religions and diverse cultures in pluralistic and multicultural environments; to be educational powers in the environment of predominant consumerism and materialism, through which transformation at moral, religious and societal levels can work; and that the principle of "Ethics first before knowledge" should be prioritized.

Dean Romero also echoed Pope Francis's message "to leave behind superficial approaches to education and the many short-cuts associated with utility, (standardized) test results, functionality

and bureaucracy, which confuse education with instruction," as he mentioned during the Launch of the Global Compact on Education in October 2020.

She acknowledged that UST is no stranger to the utilitarian need to maintain its competitive edge by focusing on the drive to produce graduates who will top licensure examinations. However, as a Catholic University, a communitarian discernment was undertaken to manage balancing the formation of students as persons who will "gravitate towards economically-attractive careers that remain deeply immersed in the area of social responsibility."

When it comes to the area of instruction, the University has taken two steps to ensure this balance: first, the revisiting of the Thomasian Graduate Attributes, namely Servant Leaders, Effective Communicators and Collaborators, Analytical and Creative Thinkers, and Lifelong Learners (S.E.A.L.). These attributes envision graduates who possess 21st-century skills and are leaders who serve the marginalized members of society.

Second, as one of CHED's recognized autonomous universities, UST offers custom curricula that meet standards of academic excellence and focuses on moral and spiritual formation. Theology courses with their signature pedagogy are able to complement technical courses and form the University's advocacy and pastoral activities.

Dean Romero shared that her own approach to teaching is the Praxis-oriented Approach (Pro-App), which links the values of dialogue and encounter. "It is used to infuse social teachings of the Church within multi-disciplinary topics and enables students to respond to issues with both technical knowledge and Catholic values," she explained.

UST'S ROLE TO CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY TO PAGE 12

UST'S ROLE TO CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY FROM PAGE 11

Wysza Szkoła Kultury Społecznej i Medialnej
Katedra Filozofii Kultury i Sztuki Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego JP II
Regionalny Ośrodek Debaty Międzynarodowej w Toruniu
Instytut św. Jana Pawła II „Pamięć i Tożsamość”
zapraszają na

XIII MIĘDZYNARODOWY KONGRES KATOLICY A WYCHOWANIE

współczesne wyzwania szkolnictwa wyższego i nauki

Studium dedykowane
Jem. Zenonowi Kardynałowi Grocholewskiemu
in memoriam

20-21 listopada 2020
Aula WSKSiM, ul. Droga Starotórńska 3, 87-100 Toruń

Sejmy I
20 listopada 2020 (piątek)
10.00 o. dr. Tadeusz Rydyk CSsR, JM Rektor Zachyłczycki WSKSiM: Otwarcie Kongresu
10.15 JE ks. abp Marek Jędraszewski: „Jako opór i cnota”
10.45 Wprowadzenie o. Em. ks. kard. Zenon Grocholewski
11.00 JE ks. bp prof. Ignacy Dec: „Moja uniwersytet w nas”
11.30 JE ks. prof. dr hab. Krzysztof Gódek, kierownik Katedry Historii Dogmatyki i Teologii Historycznej KUL, IPB: „Kościół jako miejsce dialogu”
12.00 Przerwa kawowa
Sejmy II
12.30 ks. prof. Mauro Mantovani SDB, Rektor Pontyfikalnego Uniwersytetu Salezyjańskiego (Włochy): „Podmiotowość uniwersytecka”
13.00 JE em. ks. kard. Gerhard L. Müller, były Prefekt Kongregacji Nauki Wiary: „Nauka jako nasza uniwersytet i uniwersyteckość”
14.00 Przerwa kawowa
Sejmy III
15.30 prof. dr hab. Przemysław Czarnek, Minister Edukacji i Nauki: „Wyzwania wykształcenia wyższego w Polsce”
16.00 prof. dr hab. Grzegorz Kucharczyk, Polska Akademia Nauk: „Jakość i podmiotowość uniwersytecka”
16.30 prof. Maria Teresa Enriquez Gómez, Wydział Nauk Humanistycznych, Uniwersytet Panamerykański (Meksyk): „Dialog i katecheza w uniwersytecie”
17.00 prof. dr hab. Krzysztof Gódek, Wydział Nauk Humanistycznych, Uniwersytet Panamerykański (Meksyk): „Dialog i katecheza w uniwersytecie”
18.00 Msza św. – sanktuarium NMP Gwiazdy Nowej Ewangelizacji i św. Jana Pawła II
21 listopada 2020 (sobota)
8.00 Msza św. – sanktuarium NMP Gwiazdy Nowej Ewangelizacji i św. Jana Pawła II
Sejmy IV
10.00 prof. dr hab. Piotr Zaręczyński, kierownik Katedry Filozofii Kultury i Podstaw Historycznych KUL, IPB: „Miejscem prądu w nas”
10.30 prof. Pilar L. Romero, Dziekan Wydziału Pedagogiki, Pedagogicznego i Kształcenia Uniwersytetu de Toluca w Meksyku: „Stawianie pytań i szukanie odpowiedzi”
11.00 prof. Ryszard Kofasiewicz, Dyrektor Wydziału Nauk Humanistycznych Uniwersytetu Nauki i Technologi w Włocławku (Polska): „Rola uniwersytecka w promowaniu ludzkiego i etycznego postępowania”
11.30 Przerwa kawowa
Sejmy V
12.00 prof. Fernando Simón Torza, Wydział Prawa, Uniwersytet Navarrski (Hiszpania): „Przeobrażenie uniwersyteckiego”
12.30 prof. Władimir Hrabec, Katedra Filozofii i Teologii, Uniwersytet w Opatowie (Polska): „Uniwersytecki dialog i dialog uniwersytecki”
13.00 o. dr. Tadeusz Rydyk CSsR, JM Rektor Zachyłczycki WSKSiM: Podsumowanie Kongresu

*Realizacja kongresu planowana jest w formie mieszanej (stacjonarno-zdalnej).
Informacje i zgłoszenia: tel. 56 610 71 34 (godz. 9.00-14.00), e-mail: rektorat@wsksim.edu.pl

Congress poster

Though research is now a difficult area of competition due to the appeal of prestigious rankings, it is yet another area in which Catholic institutions must endeavor to move beyond utilitarian purposes of funding and engagement, said the Dean. She commends the University's research for being both academically reputable and directed towards furthering its mission of evangelization and how it could be of service to the most vulnerable.

Dean Romero gave the example of UST's research partnerships, such as with the Episcopal Commission on Catechesis and Catholic Education (ECCCE) of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) noting that they are working on nationwide research studies on volunteer and professional catechism. Another is with the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP), which is

studying Philippine Catholic educational institutions' faculty training, research, extension service, and advocacy. The latter project with CEAP is led by Dr. Romero herself leads the latter project with CEAP.

The Dean also noted the observations of Rev. Fr. Clarence Devadass and Rev. Fr. John JunYang Park on Catholic student life, specifically the declining number of young people who are actively engaged in Church. She cited Fr. Jason Laguerta's letter during the 2019 Philippine Conference on the New Evangelization (PCNE VI) in UST where Fr. Laguerta attributed this decline in the Philippines to young "people's perception of Church rituals as rigid, unappealing, boring, and as not providing space for them to participate."

Dean Romero echoes Fr. Laguerta's call to revisit how the Church's communication with young people is undertaken and for Church leaders to "listen to young people and engage them in dialogue."

UST, As the second home to over 40,000 students from various ethnic, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds, UST must immerse its students in social realities beyond their usual environments and lead them to become social involved and open to Church's preferential option for the poor, said Dean Romero. By forming them in the virtue of Charity, it is hoped that by the time they graduate and even when they are professionals, Thomasians will still be committed to the service of the marginalized.

Dean Romero highlighted the three elements of Catholic institutional identity — instruction, research, and student life — can work together because of its common grounding: service.

Based on *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, Dean Romero concluded that despite the pandemic, it is important for Catholic universities to revisit their core, saying that "Renewal is imperative and it becomes possible if all the stakeholders in the University — the leaders, academic and support staff, students, and alumni are impelled by the belief that a Catholic university exists not for itself, but for the community it is called to serve."

"The collective response to serve the common good in the University of Santo Tomas stands on equal footing with the desire for scholarship. These two, indissolubly united, eloquently expresses its Catholic identity and the mission that ensues from it," she emphasized.

UST Grad Sch conducts webinar on internationalization efforts of HEIs amidst COVID-19 pandemic



(From left, top row:) Dr. Evelyn Songco, Dr. Miguel Antonio Lim, Dr. Rey Donne Papa, Dr. Lilian Sison, Dr. Michael Anthony Vasco, (from left, second row:) Dr. Jenny Elmaco, Dr. Rodrigo Lita, Graduate School coordinator for International Relations Dr. Gina Lontoc, Dr. Arlen Ancheta, with participants and organizers

The COVID-19 crisis has brought tremendous pressure on Higher Educational Institutions in the Philippines, forcing them to postpone some internationalization efforts. With the after-effects that the pandemic has wrought on the globalized world, there is a need to revisit these issues on internationalization, to question old assumptions about it, and make the necessary suggestions to keep HEIs strong despite overwhelming odds.

Therefore, academics, leaders of HEIs, government leaders, and the various stakeholders needed to revisit and reassess their internationalization strategies. The pandemic cannot stunt the inevitable push of the local HEIs that make their way toward fulfilling their goal to be at par with the best of the world's universities.

The webinar titled "Internationalization of Higher Education Institution amidst the COVID-19 pandemic" was held on December 9, 2020, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM via zoom. More than 100 participants from all over the country participated in the online event. The welcome message was delivered by UST Graduate School Regent Rev. Fr. Rodel Aligan, O.P, while the opening remarks were delivered by UST Office of International Relations and Programs Director Prof. Lilian J. Sison, Ph.D.

The panel of presenters was composed of: Manchester Institute of Education, University of Manchester, United Kingdom

INTERNATIONALIZATION EFFORTS OF HEIs TO PAGE 15

Estrella of IICS presents paper on mobile app for Manila's historical places at int'l conference



Estrella presents the mobile application.

A paper titled "KaByahe: A Mobile Application focusing on the Historical and Cultural places within the City of Manila" was presented by Institute of Information and Computer Sciences (IICS) faculty member Assoc. Prof. Noel E. Estrella on November 14, 2020, the second day of the two-day 5th International Conference on Information Technology and Digital Applications (ICITDA) organized by the Universitas Islam Indonesia in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

The said paper was co-authored by a group of students under the BS in Information Technology program of the IICS of the University of Santo Tomas, namely, Gaibrielle Mae G. Cabrera, Luis Paulo E. Caringal, John Phillip C. Manocan, and John Gideon D. Senga. Estrella, the Chair of the Information Technology Department of IICS, was their technical adviser.

Estrella gave a brief explanation of their study. He said that his team recognizes the rich historical and cultural heritage of the Philippines, and that tourism remains a vital sector, and one of the big contributors to its rising economy. Citing the country's capital, Manila, which has a vast list of historical and cultural places that mirrors the country's rich historical and cultural heritage, the team of developers were inspired to develop a mobile application called "KaByahe" with

the purpose of determining to determine the different historical and cultural places within Manila and serve as its users' own guide in exploring more of its historical and cultural roots.

"We, as developers, strongly believe that this project is important not only for the benefit of the tourists in exploring Manila, but also, for its local people, to aid them in knowing what has transpired beyond these places. The application can also be used to promote appreciation and understanding of the city's origins," he said.

The developers used Agile Development Methodology since the strategy is to develop using short development cycles to focus more on addressing potential issues and produce quality output per cycle. With this, the developers were able to work more efficiently and collaboratively.

"We were able to gather substantial information through various testing procedures conducted to address both functional and non-functional requirements. Based on the results of these, KaByahe was deemed to successfully meet the objectives that we set for this study," Estrella emphasized.

The International Conference on Information Technology and Digital Applications (ICITDA) is an international forum for the exchange of exchanging

ideas, knowledge, and experience on the latest development in the field of information technology and digital applications among researchers from the academe, engineers, and practitioners from the industry sector.

The conference, attended by more than 300 delegates from different neighboring countries, including Malaysia, Indonesia, India, and the Philippines, aimed to enable opportunities for collaboration among the participants to advance the theory and practice in the field of information technology.

The speakers included keynote speaker Dr. Kun Zhang, Ph.D., of the Carnegie Mellon University, who discussed "Learning Causal Representations and Using Them," and other speakers such as: Dr. Noor Zaman Jhanjhi of Taylor's University (Rise of the Digital Twin in Industrial IoT and Industry 4.0: Opportunities and Future Aspects), and Prof. Fathul Wahid of the Universitas Islam Indonesia (Strengthening Information Technology Ecosystems in Higher Education: Lessons from the Field). Workshop sessions on various topics were also held.

Estrella said that, "The conference has expanded my knowledge on technology and has allowed our team to share our knowledge on some areas in web and mobile applications development."

Rimando of CRS shares expertise at Sports Engineering conference

UST College of Rehabilitation Sciences faculty member Asst. Prof. Christian Rey D. Rimando was speaker during the first Advances in Sports Engineering Conference (ASEC) 2020 held through Zoom from November 19 to 20, 2020.

Hosted by the Universitas Negeri Jakarta Sports Science Faculty, the conference had for its theme "Technology in Physical Movement: Innovation Through Diversity."

In his talk titled "Biomechanics and Technology for Sports Injuries: A Physical Therapy Perspective," Rimando shared approaches and techniques that physical therapists do in assessing and managing sports injuries by integrating biomechanical principles and maximization of technology. He also highlighted the role that physical therapists play in optimizing performance of athletes, preventing injuries, and managing sports injuries.

Rimando has been a practicing Physical Therapist since September 2008, and started teaching at the College of Rehabilitation Sciences in the same year. A full-fledged Thomasian, he obtained both his Master of Science in Physical Therapy degree in 2011, *Magna cum Laude*, and his Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy degree in 2008 from the University of Santo Tomas.



Rimando presents his work.

INTERNATIONALIZATION EFFORTS OF HEIs FROM PAGE 13



Event poster

Impact Coordinator Dr. Miguel Antonio Lim, South East Asia Chapter of the Marie Curie Alumni Association Chairperson and the designated Third Country Contact Point of the Marie Skłodowska Curie Action of the European Union Commission Dr. Jenny Lind Elmaco, and, the Grants Supports Specialist from the University of Deusto, Bilbao, Spain Ms. Icy Anabo.

The presentations were followed by a panel discussion by the International Relations of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters Coordinator Prof. Arlen Ancheta, Ph.D. and UST College of Science Dean Prof. Rey Donne Papa, Ph.D., as reactors. The webinar was moderated by Prof. Evelyn Songco, Ph.D., a Research Associate from the UST Research Center for Social Science and Education (RCSSSE), and Prof. Rodrigo Litao, Ph.D., the Lead of the UST Graduate School Education Cluster. The closing remarks were delivered by UST Graduate School Dean Prof. Michael Anthony Vasco, Ph.D.

15th Washington SyCip Lecture tackles role of accountants in economic recovery

The 15th Washington SyCip Lecture went new normal when it became an online activity. Department of Finance Assistant Secretary Atty. Dakila Elteen M. Napao, delivered the lecture "The Accountants' Role in the Revival of the National and Global Economy" on November 5, 2020 via Zoom.

In his lecture, Napao presented the government's programs and initiatives in combatting the impact of COVID-19 pandemic to the economy such as the four-pillar strategy which consists of the lifeline assistance to vulnerable groups, improvement of the healthcare system, the recovery programs, and the bold fiscal and monetary initiatives.

Moreover, the Assistant Secretary highlighted the accountants' role on the path to strong economic recovery re-counting the story of Mr. Washington Z. SyCip, a UST alumnus, who played a vital role in the revival of the Philippine economy after the World War II by providing management advisory services and adding value to the financial reports of the business entities.

The lecture was followed by the discussions of the panel of reactors composed of representatives from the faculty, professional organizations, industry

partners, and alumni. Prof. Yew Kee Ho, visiting faculty of the UST-Alfredo M. Velayo College of Accountancy from the Singapore Institute of Technology talked on the re-positioning of the accounting education in the next economy. In his discussion, Prof. Ho expounded on the attributes of the next economy, the key technology megatrends, the skills of the future, and the future of the accounting education.

Industry representative Mr. Allan W. Ocho, Consulting Partner of SGV & Co., discoursed on the three transformative value drivers: placing humans at the center of their organization, leveraging technology at speed, and enabling innovation at scale, which according to him are what the companies need to look into in order to thrive in the market place specially during this time of economic crisis.

Representing the ASEAN Accounting Education Workgroup, Prof. Zubir Azhar, a Senior Lecturer from the Universiti Sains Malaysia, talked on the technical skills and competencies needed by the accountants in terms of meeting the demands of the industry. According to him, skills for contemporary accounting success include effective data and technology, communication, accounting knowledge,

problem solving, and professionalism. Moreover, he added that the qualities of working effectively with others, self-awareness, critical thinking, enterprise and self-management and responsibility must also be emphasized.

Finally, Mr. Ace Ver C. Vargas, a Senior Audit Associate of the PWC Isla Lipana & Co. and representing the alumni talked on the resiliency of accounting and finance professionals in the face of socio-economic uncertainty. Mr. Vargas also discussed the challenges of businesses and industries to combat the economic hurdles brought about by the pandemic.

The 15th Washington SyCip Lecture (WSL) served as the highlight of the 16th Founding Anniversary Celebration of the UST-Alfredo M. Velayo College of Accountancy. Named after an eminent figure in the Asian business landscape and a Thomasian, the annual lecture is conducted in memory of the late Mr. Washington SyCip, one of the founders of the accounting giant SGV & Co. which stands for SyCip, Gorres, Velayo & Co., and features a discussion on relevant topic affecting the accountancy profession and the business landscape as a whole.



Event Poster

Plant hobbyists get pointers at UST Grad Sch Natural Science cluster online seminar on threatened PH native plants; cluster lectures on biosensors for monitoring diseases



The quarantine that kept most of us home for nine months now was a necessary measure to slow down the transmission of COVID-19. Being at home for very long hours has resulted in discovering skills and abilities that otherwise were not consciously known even to the persons themselves. Hobbies and other creative endeavors, and those with financial rewards sprang, and one of those is planting.

The sudden emergence of the so-called 'plantitos' or 'plantitas,' a term used to describe one who has taken into planting, buying plants for personal planting activities, primarily to use quarantine time productively, and others who saw the economic prospects in their hobby, have turned to plant-selling, in addition to plant propagation. With this fad came the demand for unique plants, and therefore, are more expensive to procure or sell, giving its owner a 'wow factor.'

With this taking place, University of Santo Tomas graduate students under the Natural Sciences cluster held its first online Graduate Seminar lecture presentation targeting audiences whose interests are plants and monitoring disease, both of which are timely under our present circumstance. The online seminar was held on December 5, 2020 with speakers Asst. Prof. Melanie M. Arbias, who discussed "Threatened Philippine Native Plants during Covid-19 Pandemic" and Asst. Prof. Francis G. Binas, who presented "Immobilization of IgG on Au QCM surface."

Asst. Prof. Arbias discussed how to become responsible 'plantitas' and 'plantitos' by being cautious about buying

or selling plants that are threatened and might soon be endangered. She mentioned some of the popular native plant groups during the COVID-19 pandemic plant craze that are threatened, due to possible poaching from their natural habitats such as aroids, ferns, palms, carnivorous plants, hoyas and allies, Medinilla, some native trees, ant plants among others.

Arbias emphasized how gardeners and plant hobbyists can spot wild-collected plants sold in garden shops. She gave a reminder not to procure those plants and not to tolerate the harvest and sell practices of some plant sellers.

Meanwhile, Asst. Prof. Binas delivered a talk on how to make a biosensor sensitive in monitoring diseases. He presented one of his PhD experiments from National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) in Taiwan and that is the utilization of mass sensitive quartz crystal microbalance (QCM) platform where Immunoglobulin G (IgG) was immobilized on the surface of gold electrode of QCM chip. Orienting the IgG where more antigen binding sites can bind with the analyte will make the biosensor sensitive. Students, faculty members, and research enthusiasts attended the online seminar.

College of Science Dean Rey Donne S. Papa, himself a scientist, and subject coordinator for the course on Graduate Seminar of the UST Graduate School, delivered the opening remarks. The UST Graduate School offers the Graduate Seminar course under the curriculum of Natural Sciences. It aims to provide the graduate students who are taking their doctorate to organize and conduct lectures in the general public.

CCC partners with Medicine for wellness through counseling initiatives

The University of Santo Tomas Counseling and Career Center (CCC) recognizes the call for the younger and older members of the Thomasian community to take care of their wellbeing. It also aims to partake in the University's efforts to heed it.

Since the start of the lockdown due to COVID-19, the CCC has ensured the continuity of its most vital services and provided supplementary resources, such as a series of infographics designed to help students navigate the current situation effectively. In its continuous advocacy for over-all wellness, the CCC, in partnership with the UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery's Department of Neuroscience and Behavioral Medicine, organized a three-day online event titled "Thomasian Wellness G.U.I.D.E (Gearing Up for the Information and Digital Environment)."

The event, held from November 4 to 6, 2020, via Zoom, aimed to be an inclusive learning platform that catered to the pertinent mental and emotional health concerns of students, faculty, administrators, and non-academic personnel.

In the three-day activity, a series of synchronous and asynchronous online activities were conducted for the aforementioned target groups. On November 4, a talk on mental health facilitation was conducted by Lyceum University Guidance Director Ms. Carol Quiba, a Master Trainer on Mental Health Facilitation. This was followed by an asynchronous session in the afternoon featuring pre-recorded videos on creative pursuits that promote wellness.

For the November 5 session, the webinar "Finding Purpose: How to Find Meaning in the Pandemic" was held with renowned field experts Dr. Gia Sison, Dr. Raymond Naguit, and Asst. Prof.

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS COUNSELING AND CAREER CENTER
in Partnership with
DEPARTMENT OF NEUROSCIENCE & BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE
UST FACULTY OF MEDICINE & SURGERY

Thomasian's Wellness G.U.I.D.E: Gearing Up for the Information and Digital Environment

NOVEMBER 4, 2020 AT 9:00-11:30AM (SYNCHRONOUS)
Opening Program
Talk: **Mental Health Facilitation**
Speakers: Master Trainers for Mental Health Facilitation Organization, National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) based in NC, USA

NOVEMBER 4, 2020 AT 2:00-5:00PM (ASYNCHRONOUS)
Recorded Sessions on
Creative Activities to Get You Started in your Wellness Journey

NOVEMBER 5, 2020 AT 9:00-11:30AM (SYNCHRONOUS)
Opening Program
Talk: **Finding Purpose: How to Find Meaning During the Pandemic**
Speakers: Dr. Gia Baquiran Sison, Dr. Raymond John Naguit & Dr. Renz Christian Argao
Motivational Talk
Ms. Xyra Patrice R. Lafiguera (Thomasian Alumna)

NOVEMBER 5, 2020 AT 2:00-5:00PM (ASYNCHRONOUS)
Opening Program
Talk: **Our Wellness Matters: Coping with Anxiety and Depression during the Pandemic**
Speaker: Grace A. Macapagal, M.D., FPPA
Talk: **Keep Going: How to Stay Motivated in Your Studies**
Speaker: Monica Sophia D. Tuason, Ph.D., RPSy

NOVEMBER 6, 2020 AT 8:00-10:30AM (SYNCHRONOUS) - FOR SUPPORT STAFF
in partnership with
UST HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
Opening Program
Talk: **Staying Steady: A Talk on Work-Life Balance During the Pandemic**
Speaker: Carmelo Callueng, Ph.D., NCSP, Rowan University, USA

NOVEMBER 6, 2020 AT 1:00-5:00PM (SYNCHRONOUS) FOR FACULTY/ADMINISTRATORS
Opening Program
Talk: **Staying Steady: A Talk on Work-Life Balance During the Pandemic**
Speaker: Carmelo Callueng, Ph.D., NCSP, Rowan University, USA
Talk: **Our Wellness Matters: Coping with Anxiety and Depression during the Pandemic**
Speaker: Encarnita R. Ampil, M.D., FPPA, FPNA
Talk: **Mental Health Facilitation**
Speakers: Master Trainers for Mental Health Facilitation Organization, National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) based in NC, USA

counseling.career.center@ust.edu.ph

Event poster and list of activities

Renz Christian Argao as the main speaker, while Thomasian alumna Ms. Xyra Lafiguera gave a motivational talk. Dr. Grace Macapagal of the UST FMS-DNBM facilitated the talk, "Our Wellness Matters: Coping with Anxiety and Depression during the Pandemic." Ms. Monica Sophia DL. Tuason, Ph.D., of the CCC was speaker on the topic "Keep Going: How to Stay Motivated in Your Studies."

For the session on November 6, the non-academic personnel listened to the final day talk titled "Staying Steady: A Talk on Work-Life Balance" delivered by Prof. Carmelo Callueng, Ph.D., of Rowan University, USA.

The talk "Our Wellness Matters: Coping with Anxiety and Depression during the Pandemic" was again held, this time with Dr. Encarnita Ampil of the UST FMS-DNBM. The session ended with a talk on mental health facilitation was conducted with Ms. Carol Quiba, the Guidance Director of Lyceum University and Master Trainer on Mental Health Facilitation, as the speaker.

In the face of life's big and unpredictable challenges, a resolute spirit is key to a meaningful life. Therefore, it is of paramount importance that mental and emotional wellness is given the attention and effort it merits not just as a means to achieving excellence but as an end in and of itself. As we remain in the grip of the pandemic, the UST Counseling and Career Center upholds its commitment to over-all wellness through its services and worthwhile projects, such as the CCC's Wellness Week which provides the Thomasian community with different activities and resources to nurture their over-all wellbeing.

GS student Gapas discusses linguistic research on Marawi siege news reports at Japan int'l corpus linguistics conference

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS

RQ #2: What discursive news values were used to construct the newsworthiness of the said event?

Trends in the FT sub-corpus		Trends in the NI sub-corpus	
1. Proximity	(100.00%)	1. Negativity	(46.67%)
2. Timeliness	(98.33%)	2. Impact	(38.33%)
3. Eliteness	(96.67%)	3. Personalization	(33.33%)
4. Superlativeness	(95.00%)	4. Timeliness	(28.33%)
5. Impact	(90.00%)	5. Positivity	(23.33%)
6. Consonance	(56.67%)	6. Superlativeness	(18.33%)
7. Personalization	(38.33%)	7. Eliteness	(16.67%)
8. Unexpectedness	(26.67%)	8. Proximity	(16.67%)
9. Negativity	(23.33%)	9. Consonance	(6.67%)
10. Positivity	(15.00%)	10. Unexpectedness	(1.67%)
		11. Aesthetic appeal	(0.00%)

CORE NEWS VALUES IN TEXTS:
Proximity, Timeliness, Eliteness, Superlativeness, Impact, and Consonance (to an extent)

DIVERSITY / NO CORE SET OF DISCURSIVE NEWS VALUES

Part of Gapas's presentation

UST Graduate School student Wilfred Gabriel A. Gapas recently presented a paper on linguistics research focusing on the framing of the Marawi City siege at the 46th International Conference of the Japan Association for English Corpus Studies (JAECS).

JAECS – the largest academic society in Japan devoted to corpus research – initially held the conference live with video presentations now available to the public through their website, www.jaeacs2020.org.

While it is undisputed that the Marawi City siege was significant and worthy of news coverage, Gapas delved into the question of how journalists framed the crisis as newsworthy to the readers through the use of language and images. Combining manual and computer-based methods, the study corpus – a

collection of real-world text for use in linguistic research – was composed of articles from three national broadsheets.

It was found that the articles primarily relied on "(a) the event's closeness to readers, (b) how recent the event was, (c) how deeply involved the government was in the flow of events, and (d) how extreme the effects of the crisis was. By identifying how they framed one of the most recent security crises in our lives as newsworthy, we got a clue as to how they may have shaped our awareness through the language and pictures we may have seen in those newspapers," shared Gapas in an interview.

Gapas studied media linguistics since his undergraduate thesis for his Bachelor of Arts in English Language Studies degree, which he obtained in UST in 2015. For his graduate

research in 2016, he focused on news discourses when news on politics from different media outfits and companies were noticeably presented in different ways.

"It made me think if objective reporting is still possible and what it means to the media as 'the fourth state.' This led me to check on discourse studies literature on news reporting about media bias, and I found that bias manifests itself through language, in the way news is reported in different ways," Gapas elaborated.

The study that Gapas presented at JAECS was his Master's thesis, which was successfully defended in August 2020 with a grade of *Bene meritis* as a requirement for his Master of Arts in English Language Studies degree, under his adviser Prof. Rachelle B. Lintao, Ph.D. He is set to graduate this academic year.

WORK-LIFE BALANCE

• The Perceived Work-Family Fit and Balance Perspective (Voydanoff, 2004)

- Demands
- Resources

Fig. 1 Reproduced model

Work Demands: Work, Home, Family, Community, Society

Resources: Supervisor Support, Job Autonomy, Family Support, Family Size, Family Structure, Family Demands

Work-Life Balance: Work, Home, Family, Community, Society

Dr. Callueng discusses work-life balance.

Dr. Callueng discusses work-life balance.

Forensic Linguistics plays important role in Police Interviewing



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

A Monthly Webinar Series on FORENSIC LINGUISTICS

Featured Topic for November:
**'Tell me everything you can remember':
Memory and language in police interviewing**

DR. R. DIAN DIA-AN MUNIROH
Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia
Indonesia

November 27, 2020 (Friday)
5:30-6:30 p.m. (Philippine Standard Time)

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

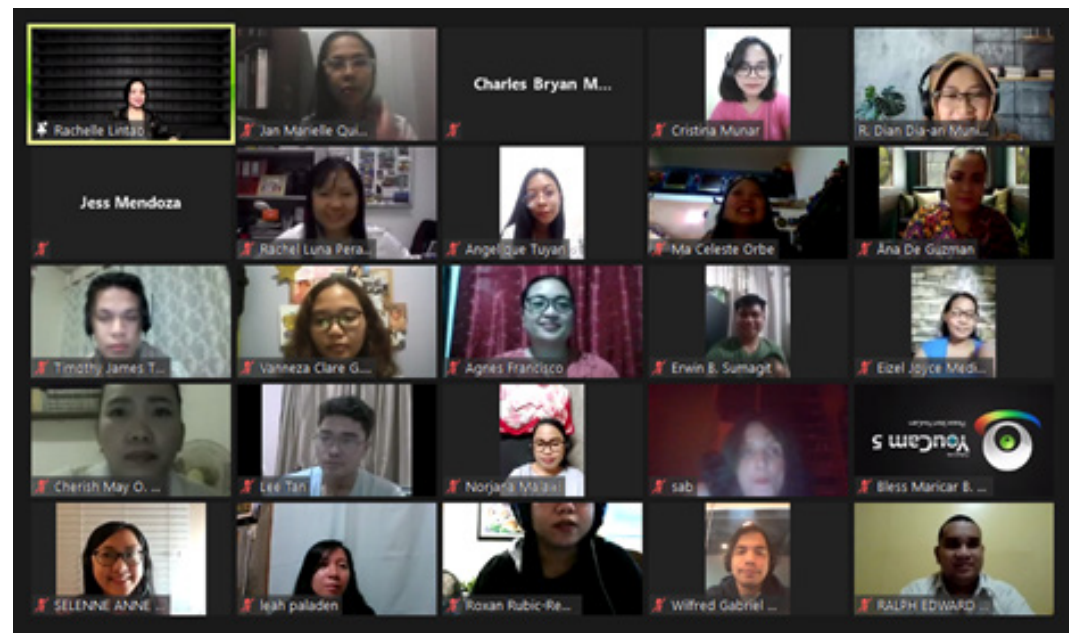
The UST Department of English featured in its November 27, 2020 webinar the importance of Forensic Linguistics in conducting police interviews during investigations. In her lecture titled "Tell me everything you remember": Memory and language in police interviewing."

Dr. Dian Dia-an Muniroh, a Ph.D., in Forensic Linguistics alumna from the RMIT University in Australia and an assistant professor at the Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia tackled the importance of a witness's memory and linguistics in police interviewing. She shared some cognitive interviewing techniques that are not practiced in mainstream investigation processes.

At the end of her lecture, Muniroh emphasized the importance of linguists in law procedures such as the assistance in gathering more accurate retrieval of a witness' experience through cognitive interviewing.

UST Department of English Chair Prof. Rachelle B. Lintao, Ph.D., served as the moderator of the webinar.

Event poster



Dr. Muniroh (top row, rightmost) and Dr. Lintao (top row, leftmost) during the discussion

UST Dept. of Philosophy, University of Macau co-host online forum on relevance of critical theory



The UST Department of Philosophy and the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies of the University of Macau (UM) co-hosted an online forum with the theme "The crisis of critical theory? Critical theory from and beyond the margins," held recently via Zoom. The online forum was convened by UST professor Paolo A. Bolaños, Ph.D., and MU professor Mario Wenning, Ph.D.

The theme of the forum centered on the relevance of critical theory beyond its place of origin. Critical theory is a philosophical

movement associated with the Frankfurt School that began in the 1930s in Germany; the movement's aim was to critically assess the social and political pathologies of the time inspired by insights from Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud, as well as ideas from sociology, political theory, economics, and psychology.

Throughout the decades since its inception, critical theory has asserted the role as a vanguard of protecting the interests of the oppressed, the pursuit of justice, and the abolition of domination and alienation in society. The forum participants tackled whether the critical theory has anything to contribute outside the Western-European context, exploring the possibility of expanding its scope by drawing on critical perspectives on modern societies and emancipation movements that have originated in Asia.

A total of eight papers, with diverse topics tackling the main theme, were featured in the forum and were presented by representatives from UST and UM: "Critical Theory at the Margins" by Paolo A. Bolaños (UST), "Filial Piety vs. Critique of Blood Vengeance" by Lee Tingmien

(UM), "Critical Theory and Tradition" by Jovito V. Cariño (UST), "Profile Politics: A Critique of the 'White Left' (bai zuo 白左)" by Hans-Georg Moeller (UM), "Critical Theory and Recognition" by Roland Theuas Pada (UST), "Critical Theory and Revolution" by Raniel Reyes (UST), "Critical Perspectives on National and Civilizational Identities: Solidarity and Enthusiasm" by Daniel Sarafinas (UM), and "Free Fall: A Hegelian Critique of the Gambling Rabble" by Mario Wenning (UM).

The online forum was attended by around 140 participants from around the globe and the sessions were moderated by UST Department of Philosophy faculty members Christine Tan, Ranier Abengaña, and Anton Rennesland.

"The crisis of critical theory? Critical theory from and beyond the margins" was initiated as part of the formal academic partnership between UST's Department of Philosophy and UM's Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. It was made possible through the support of UM's Faculty of Arts and Humanities, and UST's Faculty of Arts and Letters and the Graduate School.

Arts & Letters holds lecture on teaching Humanities online with Rebecca Barrett-Fox

An expert on online teaching, Rebecca Barrett-Fox of the Hesston College, Kansas, USA, was the speaker in the second of a series of lectures organized by the Faculty of Arts and Letters. Barrett-Fox, a visiting coordinator of online teaching of Hesston College delivered a lecture on "Teaching the Humanities Online," on December 5, 2020 via Zoom.

Describing the Humanities as the "cornerstone of all disciplines," Faculty of Arts and Letters Dean Prof. Marilu R. Madrunio, Ph.D., in her Opening Remarks, highlighted the importance of the Humanities in the learning experience of students. Thus, when it became certain that face-to-face instruction or in-person class was going to be replaced by online teaching due to the pandemic, Asst. Dean Alejandro Bernardo, Ph.D., searched Fox, a recognized online professor, and invited her to share her expertise in teaching the Humanities online.

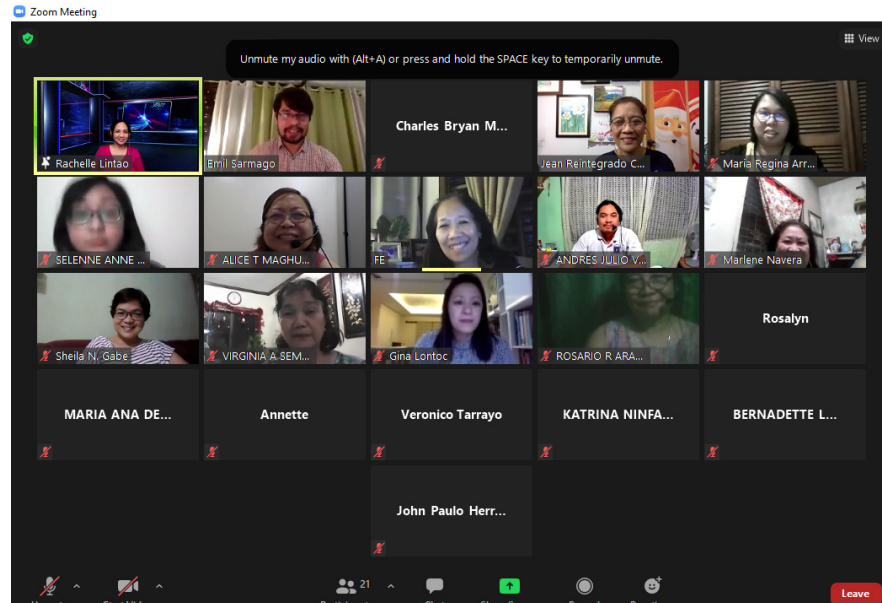
**TEACHING HUMANITIES ONLINE
TO PAGE 22**



ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Rebecca Barrett-Fox is currently the coordinator of online learning at Hesston College in Hesston, Kansas, where she works with faculty to develop robust, engaging, satisfying, effective online courses. Her training is in American studies, and she has held appointments in sociology, history, and English. She enjoys consulting with colleagues about their own online teaching and is passionate about the role of faculty in creating a more just, equitable system of higher education. You can follow her writing at www.anygoodthing.com.

Sarmago of AB delivers lecture on Applying Development Communication in teaching Purposive Communication



Sarmago (top row, second from left) with moderators and participants

Faculty of Arts and Letters mentor Asst. Prof. Emelito F. Sarmago delivered a lecture on “If Development Communication is Purposive Communication, Can Purposive Communication be Development Communication?” on November 24, 2020, via Zoom as part of the faculty development program of the Department of English.

Using a survey that he conducted among his students, Sarmago began his lecture by discussing the strengths and weaknesses of Purposive Communication as a course offering at the tertiary level. From the responses of his students, he discussed the nature of Purposive Communication and how it is actually implemented in schools. He discussed Development Communication, its characteristics, and the principles of Development Communication that are applicable to

Purposive Communication.

Sarmago emphasized the nature of Development Communication being communication with a conscience, communication with a purpose in mind, communication that seeks to create societal change, and a value-laden communication. He also shared several development communication principles that can be anchored on improving and teaching Purposive Communication.

To bring more purpose to class activities, Sarmago even suggested that teachers include the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals as possible source of material or inspiration for students’ advocacy plans, being one of the topics in Purposive Communication.

Asst. Prof. Jean R. Celino was the lecture moderator. The monthly lecture will resume in January 2021.

TEACHING HUMANITIES ONLINE FROM PAGE 21

Fox, who obtained her doctorate in American Studies, with honors, from the University of Kansas, has been teaching the Humanities online for almost ten years now. Therefore, she knows the teachers’ fears, skepticism, challenges, and needs.

Understanding the predicament of her online audience, composed of 105 faculty members and academic officials, Fox started her lecture by sharing with her audience that “The magic in teaching lies with us, teachers!” since it is the teachers themselves that develop the lesson, and that they will not be replaced by technology. When the teachers need help in the midst of the technology-assisted instruction, their (academic) departments should be their source of support.

Fox used interrogative sentences to drive home her point: (1) What values do you want to bring to your teaching? (2) What brings you joy and satisfaction in teaching? (3) How can you make your teaching sustainable? She anchored her discussion on these questions.

According to Fox, “When students live out their values outside school, and when students show change, these things bring joy to any teacher.”

With instruction conducted online, Fox observed the openness of students, or the lack of it, to share their thoughts or answers. She gently reminded the UST faculty members that students seem to be more confident to participate online because they have more ability to refine their thoughts before they recite or post their answers. There are also instances when students prefer to send their messages or reactions privately, rather than publicly, and knowing that the sessions are recorded, this may result in less active exchange of ideas.

“Make your classes human,” Fox pointed out.

Asst. Dean Bernardo ended the session by reiterating some of the highlights of Fox’s lecture turning them into reminders: “Manage your expectations, keep her insights helpful, build relationships, build connections, and make your (online) classes as human as possible.”

ARTS AND CULTURE

UST’s 2020 National Writers’ Workshop goes online



The teaching panel, including CCWLS Director Prof. Emerita Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, Ph.D., (third row, center) and Assistant Director Assoc. Prof. Ralph Semino Galán (second row, center), and fellows

The University of Santo Tomas (UST) Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies (CCWLS) held its annual National Writers’ Workshop from November 9 to December 2, 2020, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM via Zoom Conference.

Now on its 9th workshop after the Center’s revival in 2012, the UST CCWLS guided its 15 writing fellows via cyberspace from the comforts of everyone’s home in contrast to the workshops of the previous years that were usually held in Baguio City. This year’s fellows consisted of professionals and graduate school students from all over the country who were selected based on the merits of their submitted works.

The fellows were: Elsie C. Albis (Dula; UST), Cat Aquino (Short Story, ADMU), Napoleon I. Arcilla, III (Maikling Kwento; Catanduanes State Colleges), Adelaimar C. Arias Jose (Short Story; UP), Rommel Fabros Bonus (Maikling Kwento; UP), Neil Angelo S. Cirilo (Sanaysay; Central Luzon

State University), Kimberly Crisologo (Short Story; UST), Ralph Lorenz G. Fonte (Tula; UP), Carmel Ilustrisimo (Creative Nonfiction; UST), Ansherina May D. Jazul (Screenplay/Dula; PUP), Ma. Jhayle Ann Marie Z. Meer (Poetry; UP), Miguel Enrico C. Paala, III (Tula; UP), Pietros Val R. Patricio (Creative Nonfiction; DLSU), Gesuina Marie D. Puangco (Poetry; DLSU), Larry Boy B. Sabangan (Sanaysay; West Visayas State University).

The teaching panel was led by senior guest panelist premiere poet and literary critic and theorist of Philippine poetry in English Dr. Gémino Abad. The other guest panelists were fictionist Luna Sicat Cleto, and poet and screenwriter Jerry Grácio.

The rest of the teaching panel were from the UST CCWLS: CCWLS Director Professor Emerita Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo; Asst. Director Ralph Semino Galán; and resident fellows Dr. Augusto Antonio Aguila, Ma. Ailil Alvarez, Paul Castillo, Dr. Joselito Delos Reyes, Nerisa

del Carmen Guevara, Dawn Laurente Marfil, Jose Mojica, Ned Parfan, Dr. Chuckberry Pascual, Dr. John Jack Wigley, and Joselito Zulueta.

The teaching panel was composed of fictionists (short story writers and novelists), essayists, poets, literary critics, playwrights, screenwriters, and translators in English and Filipino. Most of them write in two or three genres, and some are bilingual or even trilingual, such as Galán, who writes in English, Filipino, and Cebuano.

This year’s workshop director was Nerisa del Carmen Guevara, a poet who has diversified into creative nonfiction writing and performance art. The workshop coordinator was Dawn Laurente Marfil, who dabbles in creative nonfiction writing.

The UST national writing workshop has produced more than 100 writing fellows since its revival in 2012, a good number of whom have won prizes at the Palanca and other prestigious award-giving bodies, and others have published books.

CFAD Regent Fr. Alaurin, O.P., launches book 'Cargasus'



(From left:) CFAD Regent Fr. Alaurin, Faculty of Philosophy Acting Dean Fr. Dagohoy, and Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines and UST Vice Chancellor Very Rev. Fr. Sipalay, and CFAD Dean Christie Que during the ribbon cutting

UST College of Fine Arts and Design (CFAD) Regent, Rev. Fr. Edgardo D. Alaurin, O.P., launched his new book "Cargasus," which tells the tale of a flying carabao who, with faith, helped the characters overcome the forces of evil.

The launch was held on November 22, 2020, at the Beato Angelico Gallery and was graced by the presence of the Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines Rev. Fr. Napoleon B. Sipayal, O.P., former UST Rector and Dean of the UST Faculty of Philosophy Rev. Fr. Herminio V. Dagohoy, O.P., and CFAD Dean Asst. Prof. Mary Christie D. Que.

The book launch was live-streamed in the CBRC.tv program Bridges hosted by Dr. Evelyn A. Songco and Dean Henry Tenedero. The Sunday episode titled "ART, the Universal Language of the Soul" was sponsored by the UST College of Fine Arts and Design Alumni Association and UST Alumni Association (USTAAI).

Balde of CFAD takes part in PH winning entry to 2020 International Christmas Seals contest



Balde

Asst. Prof. Mailah B. Balde's painting as stamp design in the PTSI Christmas Seals 2020



UST College of Fine Arts and Design faculty member Asst. Prof. Mailah B. Balde, former Chair of the Painting Program, was one of the contributing artists in the TB Christmas Seals contest organized by the Philippine Tuberculosis Society, Inc. (PTSI) for 2020 to 2021.

The 2020 Contest entry of PTSI, which garnered third place in the 2020 International Christmas Seals Contest, had "Hope" for its theme. The theme was a call to the people not to be discouraged by the current health crisis. Instead, everyone should be inspired by the opportunity it brings, to be of service to those in need.

The Philippine entry also had paintings by renowned and award-winning Thomasian artists such as Raul Isidro, Nemiranda, Fil de la Cruz, and Manuel Baldemor, Mailah's father, among others.

PTSI has been producing Christmas seals since 1910. The seals are sold to raise funds for the organization. Collections from fund drives are utilized mainly for the diagnosis and management of indigent patients afflicted with tuberculosis (TB) and to sustain the TB research needs of the PTSI.

Thomas Mical discusses 'Architectural Intelligences' at online conference for students, faculty

The UST College of Architecture Planning Cluster held an online conference on "Architectural Intelligences" on November 10, 2020, via google meet, with Dr. Thomas E. Mical, Professor of Architectural Theory, as guest speaker.

Mical holds an M. Arch. from Harvard Graduate School of Design on sci-fi urbanism and a Ph.D. from Georgia Tech in architectural theory, philosophy, and art history. He has been teaching and researching globally on modern and hypermodern theories of architecture and urbanism over a long career in diverse international architecture programs. He has taught 50 design studios and has been

a tenured professor in the US, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. He has held fellowships at the Architectural Association (UK), London School of Economics (UK), and DAAD and Fulbright (Germany).

UST Graduate School Dean Prof. Michael Anthony Vasco, Ph.D., delivered the closing remarks. Architecture Graduate Program Head Dr. Tobias Bonaobra, delivered the Welcome Remarks, while Cluster Head for Planning Ar. Annabelle G. Verdote, introduced the guest speaker. Asst. Prof. Susan G. Petilla gave her

ARCHITECTURAL INTELLIGENCES TO PAGE 25

ARCHITECTURAL INTELLIGENCES FROM PAGE 24

reaction to the conference lecture, while Asst. Prof. Cecilia May S. Villanueva of the Research Center for Culture Arts and Humanities was moderator, host, and organizer of the activity.

The online conference was participated in by more than 100 students from the College of Architecture. Discussed in the conference were: how architectural intelligences delve deeper into artificial intelligences with the element of design, prototyping, data visualization, principles that are expressed in the Bauhaus movement, and looking into our past heritage are ways of designing for our future with a hybrid architecture for new urban ecologies.

Event poster

ARCHITECTURAL INTELLIGENCES

November 10, 2020 at 3:00 pm Manila Time
Google Meet Link – <https://g.co/meet/b0h3eSa0-2508-4699-9449-46970a1h3ca0>

THOMAS MICAL
Professor, Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand, Jindal Global University, India

Dr. Mical has been teaching and researching globally on modern and hypermodern theories of architecture and urbanism over a long career in diverse international architecture programs. He has an M.Arch. from Harvard GSD on sci-fi urbanism and a Ph.D. from Georgia Tech in architectural theory, philosophy, and art history. He has taught 50 design studios and has been a tenured professor in the US, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. He has held fellowships at the Architectural Association (UK), London School of Economics (UK), and DAAD and Fulbright (Germany).

Closing Remarks Dean Michael Vasco, PhD UST Graduate School	Welcome Address Ar. Tobias Bonaobra, PhD UST Graduate School	Reactor Ar. Susan Petilla UST Architecture	Introduction of Speaker Planning Cluster Head Ar. Annabelle Verdote UST Architecture	Moderator Ar. Cecilia May Villanueva Research Architect/Planner UST Architecture

Equipaje of Architecture talks about significance of public open spaces



The event poster (courtesy of the Facebook page of UAP-Guam USA Chapter)

World Architecture Day was commemorated by the Guam USA chapter of the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP), the first foreign chartered chapter of the UAP, with an online webinar. The speaker was University of Santo Tomas College of Architecture faculty member Ar. Asst. Prof. Ruth Marie I. Equipaje, an environmental planner and consultant on sustainable urban development.

Held on October 24, 2020, via the online platform Zoom, Equipaje discussed the significance of public open spaces in the city in her talk titled "Planning for Sustainability and Urban Resilience of Future Cities: The Vital Role of Public Open Space."

Equipaje lamented the disappearance of public open spaces and green spaces in the cities. According to her, public open spaces are significant because they act as green lungs for the city and as spaces for refuge in cases of disasters or a pandemic. The present health problem, according to her, brings to light the need for public open spaces as they significantly affect the happiness, well-being, and mental health of the people.

Calling upon architects, designers, and city planners, Equipaje urged them to secure and conserve these open spaces to ensure better, sustainable, and resilient cities in the future.

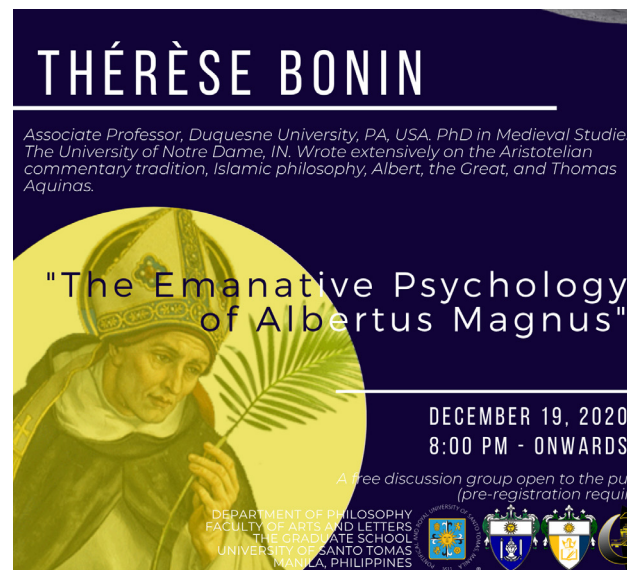
Dept. of Philosophy forms Noche Reading Group; honors Florentino Hornedo with first session

The Department of Philosophy organized a monthly reading group titled Noche. The name is short for Noche Alegre, a play of words from the University of Santo Tomas's Noche Triste, the night before the examinations for the licentiate degree in Philosophy or Theology. That night of preparing oneself to demonstrate one's knowledge in culmination is a form of celebration of philosophy's vibrancy in the academe and the country.

This is something that this reading group seeks to highlight with the name Noche, however, not of gloom and anxiety but a night of joy in bringing together interested individuals willing to navigate through various texts. It is a joyful demonstration of philosophy's sustained vitality in the UST Department of Philosophy and The Graduate School, and even in various spaces where serious philosophy practitioners and scholars reside.

**NOCHE READING GROUP
TO PAGE 27**

Event poster for the December session



**NOCHE READING GROUP
FROM PAGE 26**



Noche's topic and speaker list

Noche is a reading group that primarily aims to create space for philosophic discourse while widening the research horizon of the Philosophy students in the graduate and undergraduate Philosophy programs. This is a year-long activity to be held every last Saturday of the month with consideration to sudden suspensions of classes and activities due to inclement weather besides others. Each two-to two-and-a-half-hour session features a thinker representative of the five research thrusts of the Department of Philosophy, namely, Filipino Philosophy, Aristotelian-Thomistic Philosophy and Scholasticism, Oriental-East-West Comparative Philosophy, Continental European Philosophy, and Anglo-American Philosophy.

The first session held on October 31, 2020, focused on Dr. Florentino Hornedo's essay titled "Free Fall: Postmodernism" originally published in *Ad Veritatem* as representative of Filipino Philosophy. October is the birth month of the late professor, who was born on October 16, 1938 and died on December 9, 2015. For the organizers, it seemed fitting to begin this year-long activity in memory of Hornedo, one of the pillars of secular philosophy in the university.

The session was facilitated by Mr. Anton Heinrich Rennesland, and discussants were Dr. Fleurdeliz Altez-Albela and Dr. Roland Theuas Pada, who shed light on the essay. Both speakers were former students of the late professor and are doing research on his texts.

What made the discussion fruitful was the number of questions and insights raised both by faculty members of the Department of Philosophy but also those from other institutions across the country. With a close reading of the essay primarily discussed by Dr. Pada and Dr. Albela with some interjections by Mr. Rennesland, what was brought to fore was Hornedo's brand of postmodernism that previews the human condition: free fall.

The essay distinguishes Structuralism, Poststructuralism, Phenomenology, and Postmodernity, with Hornedo showing their divergences but a certain dependency

linked by difference in Derridian fashion. The essay despite its brevity is thought-provoking and "untimely" in a Nietzschean sense, as pointed out by Dr. Paolo Bolaños; it was written decades ago yet it still strikes a chord today. Hornedo illustrated how we currently live through the experience of jumping without the parachute of former ways of thinking—our own free fall.

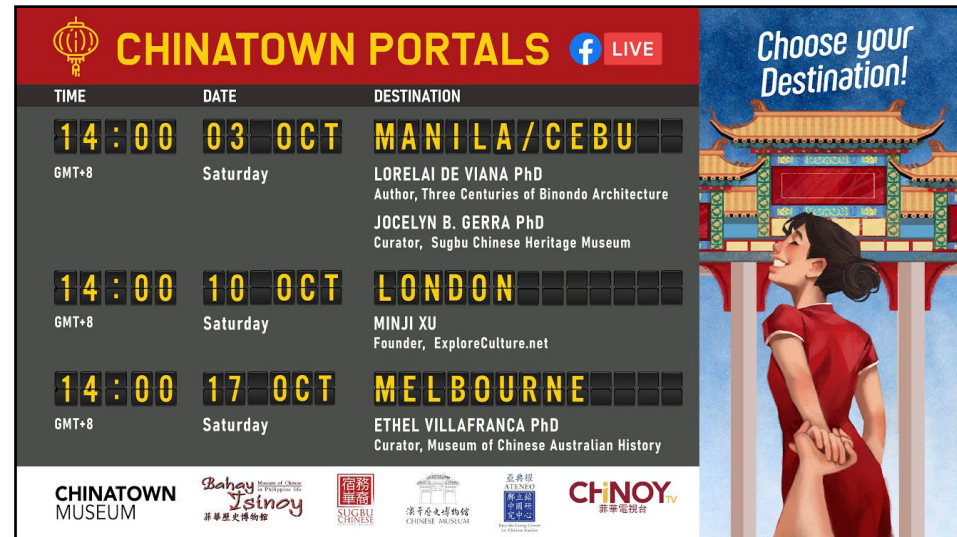
Digesting this development also gave emphasis to the person of Dr. Hornedo himself and his own historicity as one of the pioneer thinkers to ponder on Postmodernism in the University. Dr. Jove Jim Aguas and Graduate School Dean Prof. Michael Anthony Vasco, Ph.D., both former students of Hornedo, elucidated several points when it came to questions raised about his type of philosophizing of the human person. Besides scholarly engagement with Hornedo's thoughts, they fondly shared anecdotes of being his graduate students and even as having him as a thesis advisor and a panelist, respectively. This eventually led to the essay's and session's conclusion on a positive note as a form of tribute to the late professor, an untimely thinker signaling postmodernity.

This session was the first of five for the first cycle of Noche. The succeeding sessions feature the following representative of the research thrusts: Thérèse Bonin, Masahiro Morioka, Byung-Chul Han, and Nancy Fraser. The second cycle will run from April to August featuring Caroline Hau, Rebecca Konyndyk, Gayatri Spivak, Frantz Fanon, and Martha Nussbaum.

All sessions are open to the public however requiring pre-registration which usually is made available at the beginning of the month to provide ample time for all interested individuals to go over the material provided. Noche is jointly organized by the UST Department of Philosophy and the UST Graduate School. More information about the Noche reading group may be found on the Graduate School's website and the Department of Philosophy's Facebook page.

De Viana of Architecture shares expertise on Binondo at webinar on world's Chinatowns

Thomasians aid communities affected by Typhoon Ulysses



Webinar poster

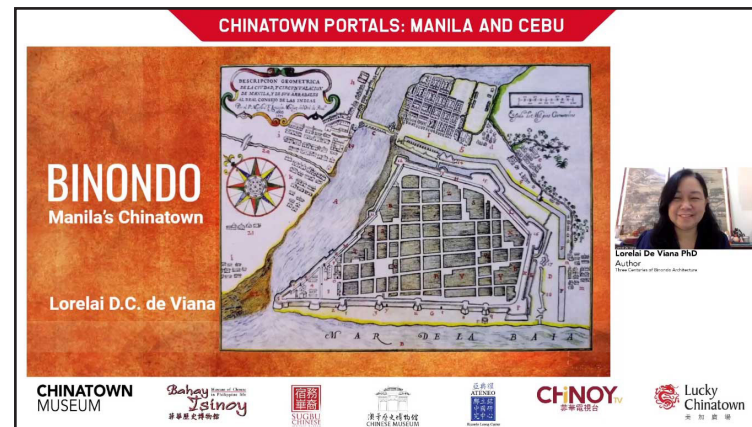
UST College of Architecture faculty member Ar. Lorelei De Viana, Ph.D., author of “Three Centuries of Binondo Architecture,” discoursed on Binondo, Manila, a district that is considered as one of the oldest Chinatowns in the world in a webinar held on October 3, 2020. Through archival maps and images, the talk recounted the history of the district from “being a 16th-century Dominican mission settlement for Christianized Chinese into the economic hub of colonial Philippines in the 19th and early 20th centuries.”

In her discussion, de Viana shared her position on the current conservation efforts on Binondo’s heritage buildings. She also expressed how the Megaworld Foundation has captured the essence and legacy of Binondo through the Chinatown Museum in Divisoria, Manila.

In the same webinar, museum Curator Jocelyn B. Gerra, Ph.D., shared her expertise on the Chinatown of Cebu. She discussed the vibrant history of the Chinese and the Chinatown in the South of the Philippines. She also shared that the Sugbu Chinese Heritage Museum in Cebu City recounts the history of the Chinese people of Cebu.

For three consecutive Tuesdays in October, the Chinatown Museum organized a series of webinars that looked into the Chinatowns worldwide. It covered Manila and Cebu in the Philippines, London in the United Kingdom, and Melbourne in Australia.

This event was organized in cooperation with CHINOY TV and in partnership with the Ateneo Ricardo Leong Center for Chinese Studies; Bahay Tsinoy in Intramuros, Manila; Sugbu Chinese Heritage Museum in Cebu; and the Chinese Museum in Melbourne, Australia.



Ar. Lorelei De Viana, Ph.D. during her presentation “Binondo: Manila’s Chinatown” taken from the YouTube account of Museums Matter (https://youtu.be/L0I_b9NFWzA?t=102)



Fr. Rodel Cansancio (leftmost, with cap) joins Samahang Kamanlalakbay community leaders Kasiglahan Village in prayer. [Photo courtesy of SIMBAHAYAN Director Asst. Prof. Froilan Alipao]



UST Community Development coordinators drop-off relief goods at the San Jose Manggagawa Parish in Marikina. [Photo courtesy of UST SIMBAHAYAN Facebook page]

After the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses, the University of Santo Tomas, through the offices of the Vice-Rector for Religious Affairs and the UST-SIMBAHAYAN Community Development Office, initiated the basic food and medical support for its partner communities on November 13, 2020.

The first was Phase 1K Kasiglahan Village, Barangay San Jose, Rodriguez, Rizal which was affected by the strong typhoon from November 11 to 12, 2020 has its community-based organization called Samahang Kamanlalakbay-Kasiglahan Village mostly composed of women and youth.

SIMBAHAYAN Director Asst. Prof. Froilan A. Alipao, Acting Assistant Vice-Rector for Finance Rev. Fr. Rodel S. Cansancio, O.P., College of Science mentor Asst. Prof. Ezra Aguilar, Ph.D., among others, directly met them and delivered aid and relief goods such as sacks of rice, boxes of canned goods and other necessities.

Another UST partner community and their organization called Samahang Kamanlalakbay-North Triangle Alliance (NTA) of Barangay San Jose, located a few kilometers away from Kasiglahan Village, was able to mobilize support like clothes, food, and basic medicines for Kasiglahan 1K Village and other community members.

As a follow-up to that initial food and medical support, Tulong Tomasino also supplied relief goods for the Typhoon Ulysses survivors in San Jose Manggagawa Parish in Marikina on November 18. Through the in-kind donations received from administrators, faculty members, support staff, alumni, parents, and students, the parish distributed seven boxes of noodles, six sacks of rice, 96 pieces of bottled water, six boxes of sardines, and one box of instant coffee to the affected families.

The University also partnered with Colegio de San Juan de Letran, UST Angelicum College, and Santo Domingo Convent to send relief goods to affected families in Bicol. On November 25, the

donations were turned over to UST-Legazpi, which facilitated the distribution.

Outside of these initiatives, Thomasians also conducted their private efforts to help, in their own ways, one of which was Ms. Corazon Dulce Bayaton, Subject Area Lead Teacher of the Fundamentals of Faith learning area of the University of Santo Tomas - Senior High School. She held a donation drive for residents of Brookside, Bagong Silangan, Quezon City, which provided 350 families with relief packs that contained canned goods, noodles, bottled water, and rice.

Legal Management junior Alyssa Marie V. Santos of the Faculty of Arts and Letters, helped the affected residents of Isabela by distributing food packs and other relief items with her family and friends. The relief drive she initiated has so far has benefitted three villages to date. On November 14,

THOMASIAN AID TO PAGE 30

THOMASIAN AID FROM PAGE 29



Legal Management student Alyssa Marie Santos gives relief packs to affected residents and farmers in Isabela after organizing a relief drive [Photos courtesy of the official University of Santo Tomas Facebook page]



Donations from UST, Colegio de San Juan de Letran, UST Angelicum College, and Santo Domingo Convent are turned over to UST Legazpi, which will facilitate the aid efforts for families in Bicol. [Photos courtesy of the official University of Santo Tomas Facebook page]



250 bags of relief goods were distributed, with priority given to affected farmers in Isabela.

Accountancy junior Patricia Claire Cruz similarly led a donation drive for the benefit of affected families in Montalban, Rizal. In collaboration with Grade 12 Senior High School students Janine Maye Antonio and Claudette Anne Santos, they were able to donate clothes, face masks, face shields, toiletries, canned goods, medicine, ready-to-eat food, hygiene kits, bottled water, and blankets to 100 families in Montalban.

Faculty of Civil Law student Joshua Urolaza and his family used their water-refilling station as a way to help their fellow residents in Cagayan by offering free refills of clean drinking water. Urolaza also participated in a fundraising initiative that turned over relief goods and personal protective equipment for those severely affected by the typhoon.



Accountancy student Patricia Cruz's family organizes donation drive for relief goods and distributes them to families in Montalban, Rizal. [Photos courtesy of the official University of Santo Tomas Facebook page]

UST Minecraft server funds donated to typhoon Ulysses victims



The UST Grandstand is reconstructed in Minecraft to look like the previous year's Paskuhan Concert, where folk-pop band Ben&Ben also play their hit song "Araw-Araw."



A recreation of the Christmas tree in campus



The UST Open Field, Grandstand, and Christmas Tree



Christmas lights make the virtual campus brighter at night.

On time for the opening of classes in August of this year, the University of Santo Tomas made waves in local print and online media when a group of students led by Charles Nobleza showed how the oldest university in Asia would have looked like if it were created in Minecraft map for the traditional Freshman Walk of the new students for Academic Year 2020-2021.

Now that it is December the members of the Thomasian community are expecting another blast from the past through the UST Minecraft Team with their version of the UST Paskuhan.

Nobleza, a student of the Institute of Information and Computing Sciences

(IICS) and his team composed of 80 UST students, much as they had wanted to delight their co-students in particular who would be thrilled to see the virtual campus and the UST landmarks decorated with Christmas lights and lanterns, the Team decided to donate the money that was earmarked for the Minecraft server.

After the success of their Virtual Tour of the campus in August, there had been plans of hosting Paskuhan, the Thomasian tradition of celebrating Christmas, in Minecraft, with efforts to decorate the campus beginning in October. The freshmen were also able to tour the campus from their own homes using their Minecraft avatars.

However, with the devastation brought about by Typhoon Ulysses, the team quickly decided to reroute funds from hosting the server to relief efforts instead.

"Our team worked to design the server for the upcoming UST Paskuhan, but because of the calamity caused by Typhoon Ulysses, we decided to donate our server funds instead. We wanted the Spirit of Christmas, which is charity, to be shared with those in need," explained Nobleza in an email interview.

The UST Minecraft server, which was originally opened this August to let freshmen tour the virtual smaller-scale UST campus, closed on November 21, 2020.

BOARD TOPNOTCHERS

UST Dept. of English, GS English Language Studies, SIMBAHAYAN host workshop on literacy, module development

A two-day webinar-workshop on literacy and module development was hosted by the UST Department of English, the UST English Language Studies (ELS) Cluster of the Graduate School and the SIMBAHAYAN, from November 27 to 28, 2020 for the para teachers and teachers of Sta. Juliana High School in Capas, Tarlac.

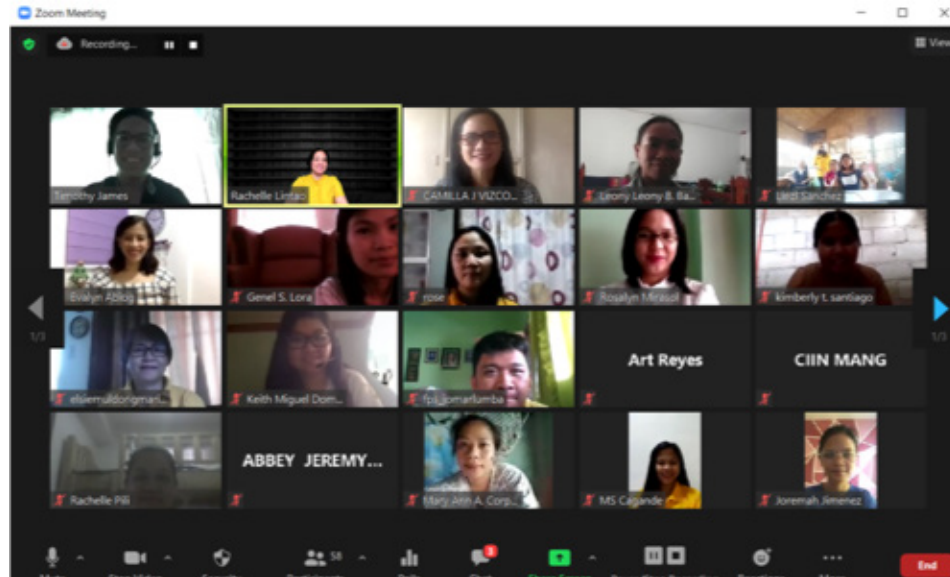
The two-day workshop, which was held via Zoom, was conducted to equip teachers and para teachers with the necessary knowledge and skills in developing modules for the out-of-school children of Sitio Balatong in Capas, Tarlac.

The first day focused on literacy. UST Graduate School Assistant Dean Dr. Camilla Vizconde, discussed "Literacy for All" while faculty members of the Department of English Dr. Rosalyn Mirasol and Dr. Evalyn Abiog, provided a lecture-workshop on "Participatory Method, Reading Assessment, and Components of Reading," Mr. Nikko Domingo, a UST Graduate School PhD student under the ELS program, conducted a workshop on "Module Development."

The online event was part of the community development program of the tripartite partnership among the UST Department of English, Sitio Balatong, and Sta. Juliana National High School.

UST Department of English Chair Prof. Rachelle B. Lintao, Ph.D., and Program lead of USTGS ELS, and Sta. Juliana National High School School Head OIC Ms. Liezl M. Sanchez, organized the event. The co-organizers included Mr. Timothy James Tabigne and Mr. Nikko Ramos, who are ELS graduate students.

This SIMBAHAYAN-sponsored activity was conducted through the assistance of Dr. Rodel Canlas and Asst. Prof. Ronald Castillo, Community Development Coordinators of the Graduate School and the Faculty of Arts and Letters, respectively.



Faculty members from the UST Department of English, Dr. Evalyn Abiog (second row, leftmost), Dr. Rosalyn Mirasol (second row, fourth from left), and UST Graduate School Assistant Dean Prof. Camilla Vizconde, Ph.D. (first row, center)



Workshop participants



Physician Licensure Examination

November 2020

UST Passing Rate: 95.61%

National Passing Rate: 76.86%



2nd – 88.58%
Adrian Emmanuel Diago Teves



3rd – 88.33%
Henrick Ryan Chua Fong



6th – 88.00%
Florence Marie Pineda Maramba



9th – 87.67%
Mark Pascual Dumago

Academia Editor, Giovanna V. Fontanilla, 62



Director of the UST Office of Public Affairs Assoc.
Prof. Giovanna V. Fontanilla, Ph.D., APR †

Academia Editor and UST Office of Public Affairs Director, Assoc. Prof. Giovanna Villarama Fontanilla, passed away on December 6, 2020 at the UST Hospital. She was 62.

Fontanilla, an English Language major, graduated *Magna cum Laude* from the UST College of Education in 1979, and began her 41-year career as a teacher in the University after graduation. Her leadership manifesting, she was easily picked to serve the College of Education as College Secretary, and eventually, as a University administrator.

Fontanilla's first appointment as Director of then-Public and Alumni Affairs Office was in 1990, a position that she served until 2000. Part of the director's functions is to serve as editor of the *Academia*, the official international bulletin of the University.

In 1994, armed with a Master's degree in Educational Technology from UP which she obtained in 1982, Fontanilla was tasked to head the UST Educational Technology

Center. She was its first director, a position that she served until 1999.

From 2000 to 2006, Fontanilla had a respite from the Office of Public and Alumni Affairs after she was assigned to be the Executive Assistant of the Secretary-General. However, as the preparations for the UST quadricentennial in 2011 intensified, Fontanilla's expertise in organizing events, strong media relations, and close relationships with the alumni was once again needed on a University level, prompting her re-assignment to the Public and Alumni Affairs Office (PAAO) in 2006, four years before the quadricentennial.

Realizing the increasing responsibilities and functions of the PAAO, Fontanilla recommended that the two offices be separated, so that an office exclusively dedicated to the needs of the alumni, whose presence must be greatly felt in the 2011 celebrations will be created. Thus, when classes opened in June 2007, two offices were introduced to the Thomasian community, each with its specific role: the Office for Alumni Relations took care of the alumni, and the Office of Public Affairs took care of branding, events management, public information, and media relations which were all necessary in ensuring a successful quadricentennial celebration.

Numerous activities, programs and projects were undertaken by the Office of Public Affairs. Partners have included the diplomatic corps, professional organizations, advocacy groups, educational institutions, LGUs, among others. Strong relations with the church hierarchy has always been a top priority. The media had always been a strong partner in numerous activities.

These relationships, and a lot more may be considered as part of Dr. Fontanilla's legacy to the Thomasian community.

"Legacy. What is a legacy? It's planting seeds in a garden you'll never get to see."

This line from the final soliloquy of Alexander Hamilton in the hit 2015 musical 'Hamilton' encapsulates the concept of legacy as a life's worth of work, ideas, and lessons cared for and gifted to the future.

Fontanilla's contributions, her legacies to the University, were recalled by Dominican Fathers who were former heads of offices with which she has had the chance to work, during the Masses that were offered in memorial of her life and service to the University.

**GIOVANNA V. FONTANILLA
TO PAGE 34**



The Office of Public Affairs Director Giovanna V. Fontanilla, Ph.D. (fifth from left) and OPA staff with the Master of the Order of Preachers and UST Chancellor Very Rev. Fr. Gerard Francisco Timoner, III, O.P., (center) during his first visit to UST on March 8, 2020.

**GIOVANNA V. FONTANILLA
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Members of the media interview Fontanilla at a Paskuhan event.

The first day of the wake for Fontanilla was held at the lobby of the Paredes Bldg., known to be the venue of events organized by the Office of Public Affairs, which she headed until her untimely demise. It was held on December 8, the feast day of the Immaculate Conception. It is a known fact that the late administrator was a devotee of the Blessed Mother.

From the time that her remains arrived, Dominican Fathers took turns in blessing her remains, the first of which was conducted by the UST Vice Rector for Religious Affairs Rev. Fr. Pablo Tiong, O.P. Even secular priests with whom Fontanilla has had the chance to work came to perform a blessing for the departed. The memorial Mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Roland Mactal, O.P., who in his homily, shared stories of friendship and service.

Administrative and academic officials, faculty members, researchers, support staff, and former students visited in batches to pay their last respects to the long-time face of UST in media. Dominican Fathers also presided private Masses, with the final one, concelebrated on December 9.

Ma'am Giovanna, or Ma'am GVF, as she was called fondly, was blessed to see that some of the seeds she planted had borne fruit during her 41 years of service. From the very first Thomasian Welcome Walk in 2002, then called the 'Rites of

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Pope John Paul II embraces Fontanilla during his visit to UST for the World Youth Day in 1995. The Pope was canonized saint in 2014.



Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn speaks with Fontanilla during her visit to UST in June 2019.



Fontanilla introduces the Ambassador of the United States of America, His Excellency Sung Y. Kim, during the Town Hall session with Thomasians.

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Passage', turning into a core tradition that is essentially tied to the true Thomasian experience; the grandiose evolution of the UST Paskuhan in 1991 from a simple *Panunuluyan* to a big event that draws crowds of tens of thousands people in campus for bands, special guests, and the awaited pyrotechnical display; her well-organized helming of the 1995 Visit of Pope John Paul II to UST as part of the World Youth Day celebrations, and of the 2015 Visit of Pope Francis, these were but a few sprouts from her very prolific garden — the high-impact results of her ideas and plans.

In a Mass celebrated at 9:00 in the morning on December 9 at the Lobby of the Paredes Bldg., by UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Jesús M. Miranda, Jr., O.P., for offices under the Office of the Secretary-General, which includes the Office of Public Affairs, he emphasized that Ma'am Giovanna "embodied UST's three Cs of competence, commitment, and compassion." He also added another C to stand for "confidence."

Particularly, Fr. Miranda thanked her for relentlessly building the positive image of UST, aided by her bright personality and quickness to give encouraging compliments, and "her excellent service to the University."

In the online Mass held on the same day at 10:00 in the morning at the UST Chapel which was broadcasted on its official Facebook page, presided by Acting Rector Rev. Fr. Isaias Tiongco, O.P., concelebrated by the Dominican Fathers, the homilist was former Rector Rev. Fr. Rolando V. de la Rosa, O.P. He was the Rector who first appointed her to an administrative position and has worked closely with her over the decades. Fr. de la Rosa recalled her "impeccable work ethic", "her seemingly limitless energy," and her "unique[ness]," even sharing that she once rejected an offer to work in Rome after she impressed Vatican officials with her organization skills, which were evident in the Papal Visit of St. Pope John Paul II.

"She said, 'I feel more at home in UST and I can't leave my family to work abroad,'" he said. He also shared that the Saint-Pope was so grateful to Fontanilla that he hugged



The UST Protocol Manual produced by the Office of Public Affairs is launched. (from left:) publication consultant and former DFA Undersecretary Ambassador (Ret.) Laura Q. del Rosario, UST Secretary-General and Chief Protocol Officer Rev. Fr. Jesús M. Miranda, Jr., O.P., UST Prefect of Libraries Rev. Fr. Angel A. Aparicio, O.P., and UST Office of Public Affairs Director Assoc. Prof. Giovanna V. Fontanilla, Ph.D.

her — a moment immortalized in the photo book "A Sea of Blessings."

"In her short life, she served the University well and showed others what love really means," reflected Fr. de la Rosa.

In the same online Mass, current UST Museum Director Fr. Isidro Abaño, O.P., delivered a eulogy for his former executive assistant when he was then-Secretary-General.

"There is so much to thank her for. She practically donated her entire life to the University," said Fr. Abaño, giving Dr. Fontanilla credit for many initiatives that shaped the modern Thomasian sense of identity, such as the very first Paskuhan, the Thomasian Welcome Walk, the UST Crime Watch, the Job Fair, the USTv Awards, the Christmas Gala, the Ambassadors' Night, the Papal Visits, and the Quadricentennial Celebration, adding that the iconic "UST @ 400", emblazoned on limited edition Philippine Peso bills and other merchandise, was one such brainchild.

Fr. Abaño even proposed that the UST Educational Technology Center, which she served as its first Director, be named after her — "Giovanna V. Fontanilla EdTech Center" — saying that, "To thank her merely with words is a shortcoming," he said.

Fontanilla, as director of the Office of Public Affairs, was also an active lead in

organizing the visits of Her Majesty Queen Sofia of Spain in 2012, and Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of the Kingdom of Thailand in 2019, and countless high-profile University events including the conferment of the honorary professorship title to Former President of Poland Lech Wałęsa and Nobel Laureate Mario Vargas Llosa.

From her external partnerships and networks also stemmed the Vice Presidential and Senatorial debates with CNN, and the Media Leadership lectures with representatives from ABS-CBN and GMA all hosted by the University.

It is incalculable exactly how much the seeds she planted have affected and formed Thomasian life and culture as they exist today, and as such, Fr. Abaño thanked Fontanilla's children, JC and IC, both Thomasians, for sharing their mother with the University. He assured them of the University's constant gratitude.

As history has shown, legacy building is a journey, not a destination. Her part may have ended, but her love for UST, manifested in her many creations and contributions, will live on, carried out by her mentees, by her team, and by those who love and look up to her. After all, her lessons were not just taught; more importantly, they were learned and they are being lived out.

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